The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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THE SUPREME ISSUE OF MEXICO

SO FAR as THE COMMONWEAL knows, only three journals representing Protestant and Jewish opinions have called the attention of their readers to the religious situation in Mexico, and in doing so have deplored or condemned the course followed by the Mexican government. There may have been other non-Catholic religious papers which have discussed the matter; we sincerely hope so; but we are forced with deep regret to record our conviction that both the Protestant and Jewish press have, with few exceptions, maintained a silence which it is most difficult for American Catholics to understand. The three journals which we know to have spoken out are the *Living Church*, an Episcopalian organ; the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *American Hebrew*.

The *Living Church* has repeatedly and forcibly dealt with the matter; particularly that central aspect of it which should make it of supreme interest to all Americans irrespective of their religious affiliations, namely, the boldly avowed intention of the Mexican government, now written into the fundamental law of Mexico, its Constitution, to make atheistic education universal and compulsory, and to subject all forms of religious education and religious practise to the absolute authority of the State.

The *Christian Science Monitor* also deals with this central issue. In an editorial entitled "Mexican Danger Signals," the *Monitor* says that "the present fight against the Roman Catholic Church recalls the struggle of 1926. The main reason for opposing the Church then was, in the words of an authoritative writer, that 'public education and intellectual emancipation are not compatible with clerical control of the school system.' That is an understandable attitude. But it is, or should be, just as clear that 'intellectual emancipation' cannot be achieved in the schools if they are to be

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maintained primarily to indoctrinate Socialism." The *Monitor* might have added that the Socialism which is proposed as the fundamental basis of the new educational law, as explained by Calles, the dictator of Mexico, and many of his followers, is defined as "scientific socialism," in the sense that all belief in God is condemned and regarded not merely as false, but as injurious to the nation; it is, from their point of view, what Lenin and Stalin in Russia have declared it to be—the poison, the opium, of the people.

The *American Hebrew* regards the attack on the Catholic Church by Calles and his Revolutionary party chiefs as a form of "Hitlerism"—an attempt made by Calles to distract attention from the failure of his promised social reforms, especially of the distribution of land to the peasants. It is true that the revolution in Mexico has assumed the form of a capitalistic dictatorship, in which Calles and his faithful henchmen have gained great wealth, and immense land-holdings, supported by a well-paid and rigidly controlled professional army. It is also true that anti-Semitism has made its appearance. But the *American Hebrew* does not yet seem to recognize that what unites the ruling power in Mexico with the most ominous development in Germany under Hitler is the effort being made in both countries to destroy the liberty of religion. This is the central dogma of the totalitarian state, which is being enforced in the fullest possible measure in Russia, which is struggling for supreme dominion in Germany, and which now makes its appearance in Mexico.

We can fully understand the sympathy for and the agreement with the policy of the Mexican revolutionary dictatorship which is felt by those Americans who accept the fundamental dogma of materialistic science and philosophy, namely, that any form of belief in God is superstitious, degrading, and, therefore, a handicap to human progress which should be completely destroyed as rapidly and as ruthlessly as possible. We can also understand the position of those Protestant Christians in the United States who sincerely believe that the Catholic Church is the Anti-Christ, the Harlot of Babylon, the Scarlet Woman prophesied in Revelations, and, therefore, that its utter overthrowal in Mexico (and everywhere else) is a consummation devoutly to be desired. We can even understand the aloof attitude of those Protestant Christians in the United States whose various denominations have expended so much zeal and energy, and millions of dollars, for nearly a century, in their efforts to spread their own forms of Christianity in Mexico, and who may now believe that if the Catholic Church is finally destroyed in that country their own efforts may at last be successful. They may not fully agree with those of their brethren to whom the Catholic Church is a wholly evil thing; but they may—indeed, many of them do—believe that the Catholic Church in Mexico is and has always been an anti-democratic, reactionary and tyrannical organization which deserves to be wiped out.

These three points of view, we repeat, we can understand, however much we disagree, as we do, with the premises upon which they are grounded. But we utterly fail to understand the silence in regard to the Mexican religious situation of those American Protestant and Jewish leaders, churches and organizations who accept, and in general act with complete and admirable consistency upon, the American principles of religious liberty, the separation and mutual independence of Church and State, and the fullest achievable cooperation of Protestants, Jews and Catholics in all movements and works intended for the common good of the American people. There is only one explanation of that silence which seems measurably adequate, namely, that as yet these silent or apparently indifferent Protestant and Jewish Americans do not know, or do not understand, the facts about the Mexican situation. The facts prove that it is not the Catholic Church alone which is being attacked in Mexico, but all religions. The facts prove that Protestant Christianity is as completely under the ban of the law as Catholicism, and that if Protestant Christianity now maintains silence under such a persecution, while valiantly opposing a similar but less drastic persecution in Germany, it will invite the shameful suspicion of consenting to the murder of the Catholic Church in the hope of being rewarded for its silence by being ignominiously permitted to carry on its illegal operations by the mere toleration of the Absolute State—as a tool of the Mexican Caesar. If it really accepted such a degraded rôle, it would not even receive the price of its subservience, but would itself be contemptuously eliminated when its brief usefulness had ceased.

THE COMMONWEAL in all sincerity hastens to add that for its own part it does not believe that the larger and more representative portion of American Protestant Christianity seeks or would in any way accept such a humiliating and dishonoring part in the Mexican situation. We simply state the fact that such a construction might—and indeed inevitably would—be placed upon their position by Mexican and American Catholics alike, should they permit the supreme issue now presented for their action in Mexico to be resolved in favor of the absolute supremacy of the State over religion without protest or, at least, without their full and public examination and judgment of the Mexican issue. And it is not only an issue in Mexico: it was an issue in Russia yesterday, and state totalitarianism conquered; it is today an issue in Germany; tomorrow it may be an issue in the United States as well.

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Week by Week

RIDING the tide of immense popularity which found expression in the recent elections, President Roosevelt made ready to meet the incoming Congress. This was diagnosed in advance as being prevailingly New Deal, with relatively few on the side of "shoot the works" policies, and most decidedly committed to liberal spending. Various pending crusades for handouts were frankly announced, that for immediate payment of the soldiers' bonus seemingly being the most resolute. The House would probably override the presidential veto on this issue, and it is an open question what the attitude of the Senate will really be. The White House avowedly puts the emphasis on a new "security plan," which has been under consideration for quite some time and which has a whole platoon of ramifications. Unemployment and old age insurance are the first items on the list. It is not yet clear what methods for providing such insurance have been tentatively agreed upon. But in all probability the administration favors something like the railway pensions act, which stipulated that employers and employees were to join in making contributions to a retirement fund. This would mean a German rather than a British system of unemployment and old-age insurance. Some form of national health insurance is also under consideration. This is a very complicated and difficult problem, and we believe that no definite project will be in shape for the consideration of the next Congress. Naturally a "security plan" cannot be set in motion with a few cents. The appointment of Marriner S. Eccles, champion of liberality, to the office of governor of the Federal Reserve Board was therefore significant.

The Trend of Events

THE PROSPECTS for inflation are often weighed in this connection. Will government indebtedness mount so high that the burden of taxation will imperil normal liquidation of private indebtedness, thus eventually forcing the government into some repudiation move? The answer to that question depends largely upon whether national efforts to speed business recovery are measurably successful in the near future. If the multiform varieties of relief spending do not take up a great deal of industrial slack, they must either be continued indefinitely or abandoned under some radical change in the formula of government. Inflation is by all odds the most normal kind of repudiation. One may sincerely doubt, however, whether this would be attended with just the same consequences here as were experienced in European countries after the war. These countries depreciated their currencies to zero or near it while there existed a world price structure guaranteed by the stable gold currencies of dominant nations. They were all in need of goods, so that the value of things went up as the value of money went down. Today it is exceedingly doubtful whether any foreign currencies are sufficiently firm to resist an assault in the guise of American inflation, and it might well be that world prices would not rise as the dollar went down. Again, we are not a country which makes heavy purchases of commodities from abroad; and even at home the problem is entirely one of surplus. We might, therefore, conceivably witness an attempt to inflate which had little or no effect on the price structure. This reasoning is borne out by the relative failure of such devaluation as has been attempted, for registered price rises have been brought about and maintained by artificial means belonging to other than monetary categories, or by spotty increased demands. If all this turned out to be true, the effect of further drastic devaluation might well be merely greatly increased taxation and added production costs.

The Corporative State

SOME details regarding the inauguration of the "corporative state" by Mussolini are presented elsewhere in this issue. Fascismo had planned to stage the event on October 28, anniversary of the march on Rome, but for various reasons a delay of two weeks proved desirable. It is not difficult to see the kernel of the new plan, however hard it may be to analyze all the laws which enshroud that kernel. The "corporative state" is that which gives the existing Italian government control of the organizations which had been created by syndicalism. First the various "federations" of employers and employees have been grouped into "corporations," of which there are twenty-two. These in turn are regrouped into three loose confederations, one for agriculture, another for industry, and a third for such enterprises as banking, insurance and the professions. Though opportunity for voting on issues of importance is afforded, the supreme authority in each corporation is nevertheless the council, of which the Minister of Corporations (Mussolini himself) is automatically the leading member and to which three representatives of the Fascist party belong. It is therefore easy to see that in practise October 28 marks the incorporation of all syndicalist organizations in the totalitarian state. Here is the point at which the Mussolini corporative state diverges sharply from the associationist ideal of the state propounded in the encyclical "Quadragesimo Anno" and therewith made the objective of Catholic social action. This ideal, based largely on German theories of the syndic state

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(*Standestaat*), calls for the autonomous vertical organization of society subject to juridical regulation in conformity with laws having for their purpose the largest possible measure of conservation of natural rights. This difference is of the utmost importance, as a little reflection will show; and nothing would be more regrettable than confusion regarding so vital a matter.

Armistice Day

ANY AMOUNT of vocal pacifistic utterance characterized this November 12. It is as certain as a mathematical proposition that the attitude of the nation as a whole toward the experiences of 1917-1918 is overwhelmingly one of "never again." The average citizen feels that Europe is a tiresome mess, enslaved to munitions makers and demagogic politicians and perenially crying for help without any intention of being grateful for it. In other words, much of our pacifism is based on a specific form of disillusionment; and this is from many points of view a great weakness. We are left, first of all, without a realistic and viable policy with regard to Europe, which is by no means the unsavory contrast to our own country which many imaginative people assume and which at all events remains of the utmost political and economic importance to ourselves. Against this idea racial minorities in our midst may at any time rebel, thus arousing hostile feelings here which have their repercussions abroad. In the second place, it exposes us to the danger of explosions in other directions. War would be an easy problem to dispose of if it were not, at crucial moments, a natural response to suddenly unleashed mass emotions. A desire for this form of collective expression is latent in the bosom of nearly every popularistic state, needing only an occasion to give it momentum and objective. The most impressive defense of peace, therefore, is the awakening of the right kind of realism in the average man's mind. He must be taught to realize that, unless demonstrably forced upon him, war is only a stupid and bloody gamble. We trust that the Unknown Soldier made this point well on Armistice Day. If so, he assuredly did not die in vain.

The Other Side of the Picture

IT IS to be hoped that wide publicity will be given to the Englewood questionnaire on the movies, sent to about 1,500 grade and junior high school children of that New Jersey community by its Better Films Committee. This body plans to obtain proper movie entertainment for children, to be shown weekends at the local theatres, setting an example of practicality for other communities to follow. But other facts, valuable and heartening, also appear. The large majority of these public-school children prefer games to movies, on their own showing; their movie attendance is very limited; their tastes are childish and healthy; and many of them have never been in a movie theatre. All of this, we feel, presents the other side of the picture, duplicated essentially in many unpublicized places throughout the country—the side of the picture which it is fair to call constructively American. For, while Englewood is a wealthy and privileged community, and to that extent not representative, its intelligent civic spirit, the locally directed activity of its boards and clubs, is really characteristic of the best quality of our country. It is precisely by such a spirit and such local activities that the movie problem, and other social problems, will be solved in the long run: and very often solved in the best way of all, by not being allowed to start. The reforms inaugurated by the Legion of Decency are indispensable in checking a great evil. But it is in relatively small communities, which make a business of seeing that children have proper alternatives to improper entertainment, where responsibility is widely diffused and personal, that the norms of conduct are produced for a healthy national life.

The Horse Show

THE LEAST that can be said for the cult of the horse is that, other things being equal (that is, people and other forms of culture not being allowed to perish while the horse prospers), it is negligible. For those who enjoy a horse race, a horse show, a hunt, or a canter in the country or the park, on the other hand, much more can be said—almost *ad infinitum* as an innocent bystander sort of a person who knows some of the "horsy" set will appreciate. Certainly the annual National Horse Show is a brave, colorful sight. The driving classes, with their various rigs, the harness leather creaking and the fittings jingling, the drivers in their fashionable clothes protected by the conventional apron, the whips held at a smart, fixed angle, the horses or ponies, sleek, proud, stepping high, singles, teams, tandems and four-in-hands, are a fine sight, a fine example of good form, something intangible, but clearly distinguishable as one of the inutilitarian things of life that it would be too bad to have completely submerged. And the jumping events, particularly the military jumping, are a brave sight, raw bravery of man and his trusting beast, human nerve of a cool, deliberate, controlled kind. Lady amateurs on hunters taking four-foot walls, and fence, in-and-out jumps, show definitely a cultivation of a kind of sporting spirit that is amiable and admirable. The military teams and the Canadian "mounties" all distinguished themselves and, we are sure, added something, if even a little, to the kindly feelings between peoples of different nations.

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ECONOMIC REFORM IN SPAIN

By JAMES A. MAGNER

AMONG the problems which face the Spanish people today, none calls for more profound consideration than that of economic readjustment. The sanguinary character of the October uprising, the curious alignment of Azaña, Companys and Caballero in connivance with an Anarchosyndicalist movement that disdains political action, and the religious atrocities committed during the affair, have again demonstrated the fact that a philosophy of life and social structure, far deeper than the mere distribution of wealth, are involved in the question. Recourse to terrorism, with the aim of demoralizing the government, instead of abiding by the results of national suffrage, has definitely stamped Marxism in Spain as the desire of a minority, alien both to general sentiment and to the traditions of republicanism. Will the acknowleged presence of rebellious proletarian groups now have the effect of strengthening military factors in the government? The moderate elements of the country are more than ever convinced of the necessity of constitutional rule, but such reaction could easily retard the process of economic reform, which clear-visioned men in Spain recognize as essential for the prosperity and social peace of their country.

Fortunately, from an agricultural standpoint the present year has been relatively favorable. The crops, ranging from fruits to wheat, have been about one-third more abundant than last season. In spite of the attempted farm strike during the summer, the harvest has gone on normally. An increase in wages has been noted, and to some extent the rate of unemployment has been reduced.

To a large extent, the talk of dire want, of social injustice and governmental temporizing in Spain has been issued by international agencies which will never rest content with anything short of a proletarian revolution. In the industrial centers a great part of the unrest has been caused by professional Communist and Soviet agitators. Nevertheless there is still a great deal of genuine misery among the peasants, particularly in Andalusia and Extremadura, while in the industrial centers class war, in many respects, remains unabated.

Three general methods of approach to the social and economic problem of Spain have become clearly outlined during the past three years, and the present struggle of the political elements of the country has become oriented principally in these directions. One is the socialization of properties and corporations, as outlined in the Constitution, and developed during the first two years of the republic. The second is the violent destruction of the capitalistic system, and the organization of a proletarian rule, advanced by the Anarchosyndicalists. The third represents, at least in theory, a moderate capitalism and gradual redistribution of properties, without radical or violent reform. The latter is the program of Centrist and Conservative groups now in power, in particular as stated by the C.E.D.A. (Confederation of Autonomous Conservatives) under Gil Robles.

In a formal declaration to the Cortes, after the triumph of the Right in the election of November, 1933, Robles outlined his social concepts and methods of procedure. "A number of legislative measures," he said, "are absolutely necessary before all. It is absolutely imperative to guarantee liberty of labor and the organization of labor. It is indispensable to end the measures which have ruined agriculture, of the type of Forced Labor and of Intensive Cultivation, which have been applied, not to remedy the unpatriotic conduct of some proprietors, but to impose sanctions upon those who did not bow to certain partizan rules." He declared it necessary, also, by a revision of the Agrarian Reform, "to eliminate the Socialist concept of property and to establish the Christian concept of a small landowner guaranteed in the possession of his property."

While asserting the principle of distributive justice and of the right of labor, Robles struck directly, at the same time, against the arbitrary division of landed estates and the despotic power that had been given to radical labor by the appointment of radicals to the boards of arbitration and dispute between employers and employees. These Mixed Juries, he said, must be rectified, "not because we repudiate them as an instrument of peace and concord between the social classes, but because they are an instrument of class war placed at the disposal of determined sectarian organizations." At the same time, he indicated, much to the disgust of the Socialist and Syndicalist groups, that social justice and decent living for all in Spain will be achieved, not by the simple expedient of expropriation and violent upheaval, but by scientific study of Spain's resources and economic possibilities.

The problem of land ownership, according to this viewpoint, cannot be settled merely by further division of estates. In some sections of Spain

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there is an excess of small proprietors, as in Asturias and Galicia. In the latter province, 2,900,000 hectares have been held by 2,500,000 owners, about 1 hectare, or 2½ acres, to a family. In the south, where most of the large estates owned by absentee landlords are situated, the process of division, as an economic measure, is complicated by important natural handicaps, notably the mountainous and arid character of the country.

The irrigation of these lands has long called for serious study. It will require an enormous outlay of funds and can be achieved only as a national project. At present about 1,450,000 hectares are under irrigation. A plan has been projected, extending principally to the southwest, to make another 1,300,000 hectares available to cultivation. Inasmuch as this involves a complete diversion of the flow of the rivers, at a cost of 5,000,000,000 pesetas and many years of labor, it hardly corresponds to the idea of immediate and radical reform.

The Socialist régime began to settle Spain's economic problem by confiscating the estates of the high nobility. A similar process was used for the properties of those suspected of leadership in the monarchist revolt of August, 1932. Other seizures without indemnity have taken place on various pretexts, and these lands are to be redistributed to the tenants, the title of the properties always remaining with the nation in accordance with the Agrarian Reform. More than 16,000 hectares were seized from the nobility last spring. A number of these expropriated farms, and others which were voluntarily offered by their proprietors, were assigned for proportionment in October to small farmers now without land. This affects principally the provinces of Caceres, Badajoz, Ciudad Real, Toledo, Jaen, Seville, Cadiz and Salamanca. In the latter province, four estates belonging to the nobility have already been confiscated without indemnity, including that of the Marques de Bendana, of 576 hectares.

The elections of November, 1933, however, gave a more conservative complexion to the government. As a result, although the Agrarian Reform was approved by the Cortes, September 9, 1932, the actual dismemberment of estates has proceeded slowly, and a project for the revision of this Reform has now been advanced by the Popular Agrarian party. While following the fundamentals of the Constitutional Reform, the proposed revision, inspired by Robles, attacks the principle of socialization or state ownership of land, and it notably reduces the lands which can be expropriated.

In general, expropriable lands, under the new plan, are those which have not been properly exploited by the owners and those which represent a practical monopoly of land in a given section. Nothing shall be expropriated from an owner whose average rent does not exceed 5,000 pesetas, and the special laws aimed against the nobility shall be suppressed. By the terms of the recent amnesty, the properties already confiscated from the nobility, or those suspected in the August plot, will be paid for according to the law. The acquisition of real estate will always mean full ownership, by means of payment in instalments. The idea of the conservatives is that, after the division of the lands, there will be, not settlers, but small proprietors. Indemnification for expropriated lands will be fixed by experts and payable in metal or in public bonds.

Observers have already been able to point out a number of striking instances in which the Socialist Reform has failed. One of the cases in hand is the experiment with the farm "Sotomayor" near Aranjuez, formerly the property of an estate which, in consequence of the application of the Agrarian Reform, was taken over by the government. The former renter paid the owner 60,000 pesetas a year and retained 130 workers. The 34 workers given to its exploitation under Socialist ownership, lost 40,000 pesetas during the past year and stand to lose even more this year.

Another radical agrarian experiment, with political ramifications, has been the so-called "Law of Farm Leases" passed by the Esquerra party in Catalonia. Opposed on constitutional grounds by the Catalan landowners, the law itself was finally admitted to be within the jurisdiction of the Catalan legislature, and the provisions for its enforcement were brought into line with the federal law. In effect, it means that after a tenant has cultivated the same property for eighteen years, he can expropriate it by paying the owner in a series of at least fifteen annual instalments by capitalizing the rent. It was largely upon the basis of support by the *rabassaires,* or peasants benefited by this arrangement, that Companys relied in his recent abortive proclamation of Catalonian autonomy. This law is retroactive in all present leases. The conservatives maintain that it practically ruins all landed proprietors in Catalonia who do not go out, spade in hand, to work their own land. The Mixed Jury to decide the cases will consist of two owners and two renters, and the chairman will be appointed by the Generalidad of Catalonia, now controlled by the Esquerra party.

Leading economists are insisting more and more that the success of farming and justice to farm workers in Spain depends in great measure upon such elements as planned production, co-operative marketing, rural credit, and facilities for canning and conserving such products as fruit. The government has already taken steps to direct production in accordance with national consump-

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tion. Thus an Institute has been created to promote the development of cotton, extending the cultivation of this product 100,000 hectares in the southern provinces. The government decided to give the cultivators a subsidy of 100 pesetas per hectare, but this has been modified, to guarantee the farmer 1.30 pesetas per gross kilo. Spain annually spends 300,000,000 pesetas on foreign cotton, the Catalan industries alone requiring 300,000 bales.

Successful cooperative marketing has been carried on principally through agrarian federations. The Salamanca branch of the F.C.A. (Federation of Catholic Agrarians) representing eighty-five affiliated Syndicates, has reported that from 1916 to 1933 it shipped 41,112,800 kilograms of products for its members and made loans totalling 12,161,095 pesetas. Other groups such as the Agricultural Federation of Asturias, which is affiliated with the Republican Left, organize the exportation of grain and cattle, offer hygienic services to livestock, assist in marketing milk products, and the like. Largely as a result of the representations of these various agrarian assemblies, the Bank of Spain has recently extended liberal terms on loans, with wheat as security. This makes possible farm credit, to give immediate value to the wheat harvest, delivering its producers from usury and from the losses due to abuses in speculation. Moreover, it represents a first step in unifying arrangements for national liquidation of this primary product. These groups have also played a part in national politics. The Catholic agrarian group at Alicante, for example, affiliated with the C.E.D.A., has 42,000 members and more than 100 committees in the province. In the November elections last year, it placed a total of 87,000 votes.

At the same time a notable improvement has taken place in the condition of farm labor. In Mallorca, during the latter days of the monarchy, a farm hand ordinarily received 2½ pesetas. Now the average daily wage is between 6 and 8 pesetas. Harvesters of this year's crop in Extremadura received from 7½ to 9½ pesetas a day for the barley crop and 10½ to 15 for the wheat. In some places it was not unusual for a harvester to receive as high as 18 to 20 pesetas per day.

In the cities, however, the problem of wages and unemployment is still a cause for grave social unrest. In December, 1933, about 650,000 men were reported out of work. According to the most recent statistics issued by the Ministry of Labor, up to June 30 of the current year, involuntary unemployment reached 226,523 in agricultural industries, 15,813 in small foundries, 86,551 in structural industries, and 34,644 in other industries and professions, a total of 363,531. This figure represents a little over 2 percent of the total population. At the end of June, in the district of Bilbao, including twenty-one towns, more than 16,000 men were affected, of whom 10,450 were left completely without work. To remedy the situation, the Cortes has voted to increase the funds of the national reserve against unemployment by 1,000,000 pesetas in advanced credit to private enterprises, and to form a plan of public works along the lines of hygienic, agricultural and educational improvements with an appropriation of 50,000,000 pesetas raised by national bond issues.

In addition to governmental aid, social assistance has been given the poor by various private and political organizations. The problem of mendicancy, however, still remains. Although special laws have been passed and posted in every town against vagrancy and begging, it has been estimated that Spain still has 300,000 beggars and vagrants receiving public charity of nearly $25,000,000 a year.

The most significant omen of social uneasiness and economic discontent in Spain has been that of strikes and the strike system. In many cases the strikes in Spain have represented a demand on the part of labor for increased wages, shorter hours, and improved working conditions. The general movement as such, however, has been used as a political or social weapon in the hands of the Socialist and Communist unions to demonstrate their strength and to threaten the régime. Prior to the recent revolt, three general strikes were organized by these groups, the last one, in December, 1933, being much more extended than the others. At that time an armed rebellion took place in nine provinces. In fifty cities and towns the public forces were attacked and an attempt was made to proclaim Communism. The movement began in Saragossa and spread to Barcelona, Huesca, Teruel, Logrono, Caceres, Leon and some of the isolated cities of the provinces, as Bujalance and Villanueva de Serena. These uprisings were put down after considerable loss of life and damage to property. The farm strike, called for June 5 of this year, was a complete failure.

While Socialism has made an appeal to many Spanish laborers, as a practical weapon to secure an improvement of economic and social conditions, neither Socialism nor Communism represents the true mind of the Spaniard. The average Spaniard asks only a living wage or a small competence. He is too much an individualist to desire a Soviet. Further revolutionary attempts are probable, but if the conservative parties can continue with a moderate and progressive policy, while educating leaders and workers to leaven the professional Syndicates, Spain will be able to solve its social problems, without resort to economic violence or proletarian revolution.

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WAYS TO SOCIAL SECURITY[1]

By FRIEDRICH BAERWALD

Last week Dr. Baerwald discussed the theory of social security and argued for the proper adjustment of insurance projects to the existing national economy. Now he argues for a right consideration of the sources of unemployment. Superficial remedies, such as recourse to public works, must not be confused with resolute efforts to study and later on adjust the relations between the productive and consumptive capacities of the nation. Perhaps one aspect of a final solution is the discounting of the future.—The Editors.

IN HIS radio address to the nation on September 30, 1934, the President gave a formulation of his attitude toward the unemployment problem in this country which must be recognized as a declaration of social policy of outstanding and far-reaching significance. He said, "I stand or fall by my refusal to accept as a necessary condition of our future a permanent army of unemployed. On the contrary we must make it a national principle that we will not tolerate a large army of unemployed and that we will arrange our national economy to end our present unemployment as soon as we can, and to take wise measures against its return."

These words do not point out an economic and social program in the technical sense of the word, but it would be a mistake to criticize the President for his not having been more specific on this occasion. Before we start to inaugurate special measures against unemployment, it is necessary to define the spirit with which this problem should be handled. It makes a tremendous difference whether we approach this problem in a spirit of defeat or whether we approach it in that spirit of determination to fight against this plight of modern society as it has been manifested by the President. The fight against unemployment can only succeed if a nation organizes and concentrates all its forces to overcome this crisis which can so easily move from the economic to the political field. Hence this fight is not only the business of employers, social workers and social experts, it is not only a matter of legislation, it requires cooperation and understanding by the whole nation. We never will reach satisfactory results in our fight against unemployment if we exhaust our initiative in the pursuit of incoherent details.

Of course we can only succeed gradually and if we wish to succeed at all we have to attack not only the symptoms but the basic causes of unemployment. This implies a twofold approach to the problem. First, we have to plan measures to create work and to give temporary jobs to the unemployed as long as the causes of unemployment itself remain to be effective in the economic sphere. Second, we have to eliminate these causes of unemployment by a long-range policy. It is necessary to emphasize this distinction, because it would be a mistake to confound the inauguration of temporary public works with the fight against the fundamental causes of unemployment.

In order to eliminate these causes we first have to recognize them. This sounds like a truism, but it must be said in a situation where not very much is known even about the absolute figures of the unemployed in this country. We do not know these figures, we do not know very much about the age distribution of the gainfully occupied population and the unemployed. Few studies have been made so far to analyze the nature of unemployment in individual districts or states, and to try a forecast of the future employment situation as it can be recognized in data of vital statistics and their relation to agricultural and industrial conditions. All we know is the general experience that there is a maladjustment between the development of our productive machinery, agricultural and industrial, and the development of the population. There is also no balance between the agricultural and the industrial section within the national economy. At present, productive capacity is far ahead of the actual consumptive capacity of the population. Unemployment is further, to a great extent, a consequence of a false distribution of the population, of its accumulation in big cities, and of an organization of agriculture which did not consider one of its most important functions, namely, to give work to such a number of people so as to balance the proportion between agriculture and industry.

These few remarks can only give the outline of the underlying causes of unemployment. But if we have grasped their significance we begin to understand that we cannot improve the situation fundamentally by merely mechanically changing the nominal value of money and of the price level, or by raising wages nominally. Reconstruction cannot be confined to repairing the social superstructure. Its efforts to rebuild a sound economic system must go down to the foundations. What are these foundations?

They are the productive and the consumptive capacities of the population. Now these factors

[1] This is the second and concluding instalment of this article.

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are not stable. They submit to changes which are caused by the development of the industrial technique, the extent of the territory, the population and the standard of living. In this progress of economic development, sometimes a disintegration between the productive and the consumptive capacities occurs, which results in an economic crisis. Former periods were characterized by an automatism of readjustment and recovery which began to function whenever such a disintegration happened. Today it is generally conceded that this automatism has ceased to work in our period and that we cannot wait for an automatic readjustment to take place. We have to help actively, to lead and to strengthen the development toward a new coordination between the now disintegrated capacities of consumption and production within the population. But how to do it?

In order to come to such a new coordination we have first to make something like a national inventory both of our productive and our consumptive forces. We have to ask for a new structure of national consumption large enough to keep the production running and the population working; we have on the other hand to adjust the productive capacity to this volume of consumption.

I want to give a few instances. If we agree on what the general level of housing in this country should be and if we try a statistical appraisal of the future demand for apartments based on vital statistics, we will be able to draft a program organizing building construction work for a long period which can be made self-sustaining by adequate long-term financial planning. The same is true with a long-range program of land settlements in order to unburden the big cities and to strengthen the agricultural population. Such a plan can also be made self-sustaining without causing agricultural overproduction.

An analysis of the age distribution of the population with respect to the employment situation will eventually change our methods and the extent of employment of young people. We will perhaps come to the conclusion that not only a planned production is necessary but also to a certain degree a regulation of the influx of young people into industry. More planning of academic and professional careers will also be necessary in order to relieve the present unemployment situation in this field. The idea of creating special labor facilities for young people who otherwise would be unemployed has gained many adherents abroad, and I think that the results achieved so far in England and Germany suggest an extension and intensification of what is now called C.C.C. in this country.

Works such as housing projects and land settlements are entirely different from the typical public works as they are now known because they influence essentially the economic structure of the country. They are based on a long-term program the expenditures for which will be returned later. We have only mentioned these instances to make evident what we meant when we spoke of the building up of a new structure of national consumption. If we have reached a definite idea of what this new volume and structure of consumption might be, we can gradually build up this structure by a planned strengthening and developing of specific demands and by an organization of production proportionate to this progress of building up consumptive capacity. From this point of view a new type of credit and constructive banking becomes conceivable, which discounts a future economic development guaranteed by the combined efforts of a nation to get out of its impasse.

Such a credit policy has certainly a much sounder basis than the financing of relief expenditures by private banking institutions. Credit is always discounting a future economic enterprise and it can be used in the framework of a planned economic readjustment provided that this plan does not only provide actual spending but also a slow return of the actual expenditures. What we have in mind is something entirely different from what is now understood as strengthening of purchasing power, because until now methods of raising the level of consumption were hampered firstly by a simultaneous raising of the price level and secondly by the lack of coordination between the building up of new purchasing power and the organization of production.

This gradual building up of new consumptive capacity in close connection with productive plans, is of course also entirely different from the E.P.I.C. plan of Upton Sinclair. This plan assumes that there are millions of people who can never be reemployed in regular business, a theory which has been expressively rejected by President Roosevelt in his radio address. On the surface the Sinclair plan seems to be characterized by an active attitude toward the unemployment problem, but because it does not tend toward reemployment but only to a productive form of unemployment relief, it is utterly passive in its attitude toward economic conditions as such. The idea of making the unemployed self-sustaining may be discussed as a practical temporary measure especially in agricultural districts. If we assume the Sinclair plan really could function at all, then we must come to the conclusion that this plan would result in building up two different groups within the population with only few interrelations: the group of the employed and the group of the unemployed, the latter being isolated and not participating in the general economic intercourse, and without any chance of ever doing so again. This plan which at first has some

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seductive features can therefore not be accepted as a constructive contribution to the unemployment problem.

The very progress of planning coordinated production and consumption is also the very progress of reemployment on a permanent basis. Once a new balance is reached, employment will again be continuous and its volume will be large enough to provide work for all who must earn their living. If, nowadays, a plan is required to come to this new standard, it certainly is not and must not be a plan to abolish private ownership or to make state interference a permanent feature of economic life. It is just a step toward a new basis of social security in the only form in which such security ever can exist as a permanent institution, namely, in the possibility for everybody of doing productive work.

THE PRESIDENTIAL POWER

By OLIVER McKEE, JR.

IN EXERCISING the wide powers delegated to him, President Roosevelt, through September, has issued approximately 900 executive orders. No previous President, in so short a period, has approached this figure. Woodrow Wilson, who signed more orders than any other chief executive, issued but 1,767 during his eight years in the White House. Mr. Roosevelt will probably exceed, in four years, the Wilson total for eight years, setting a mark that none of his successors for many a decade is likely to reach, if, as times become better, the balance between executive and legislative again becomes normal.

As the captain general of the recovery forces, it is through executive orders that Mr. Roosevelt has sought to carry out the mandate laid upon him by Congress. An American Chief Executive, particularly one who commands great popular prestige, as Mr. Roosevelt has, can accomplish much through personal leadership, and his influences over individual members of Congress. But personal persuasion will not accomplish everything. To create new bureaus, and commissions to initiate public policies, to speed reforms, and launch counter-attacks on the depression—all these require action that has the force of administrative law, and executive orders, used by other Presidents to accomplish many of their public ends, have been the instruments through which Mr. Roosevelt has directed, from week to week, the policies of his administration.

Though critics of the New Deal may question the soundness from the point of view of public policy, of many of the things done by the present administration, the authority for Mr. Roosevelt's orders will be found in the powers with which Congress invested him when it enacted the so-called emergency legislation. He does not appear to have gone beyond these. The authority granted was so sweeping in its range, and granted in terms so general that it provided the basis for executive action in many fields, widely diversified—monetary policy, relief, NRA, the budget, reform of veterans compensation, reorganization of the federal government and the establishment of new bureaus, commissions and federal agencies, and so on. The grant of authority, in a word, was ample enough to give the President virtually a free hand for his reforms and his planned economy.

It is important to bear this in mind, for if it is so inclined, Congress can take away the authority it has given the President, and just as quickly as it was granted in the first instance. Nor does an executive order represent the arbitrary fiat of a president. Rules and regulations for the issuance of these orders are carefully laid down. Each must receive the approval both of the Budget Bureau and the Attorney General. The first decides whether or not a proposed order clashes with the financial policy of the administration. The second decides whether it contravenes the Constitution, or an existing statute, and whether it is in accord with the intent of Congress in conferring on the executive the authority on which the order rests. Applying as most of them do to a single government department, orders usually originate with the department or federal agency concerned. Before an order goes to the White House, the State Department makes a final check as to its form, etc., and the President himself, in the case certainly of an important order, discusses it with the government officials. Signature of the President is the final step, and when he approves an order, it has the weight of adminstrative law.

President Roosevelt's orders cover a range as wide as the New Deal itself. Executive orders have carried out many of the policies of the NRA, in writing a new charter for American business and industry, and they have directed the reorganization of the NRA now under way. Executive orders took the country off the gold standard, and reorganized the monetary policy of the federal government; they established many of the alphabetical agencies, created commissions to deal with strikes, allocated emergency relief funds, established the National Emergency Coun-

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cil and the Textile Labor Board, restored part of the pay cut of government employees, and "covered" government employee groups in and out of the Civil Service. Because of the wide authority delegated to him, President Roosevelt, by means of executive orders, has been able to do many things which another President would not have been able to accomplish without the dispatch of a special message to Congress, and the marshalling of the administration's full strength in both Senate and House. Not only this, but Mr. Roosevelt has been able to strike swiftly, without vexing delays inherent in the legislative process.

Though in theory a rigid separation of powers divides the three coordinate branches of the federal government—executive, legislative and judicial—every President shares, to some extent, in the legislative function. Through the exercise of the veto power, often the ace in his hand, a President may override a majority of both House and Senate, and withhold from the books a piece of legislation of which he disapproves. By means, again, of executive orders, which must have a statutory or constitutional basis, he may supplement the work of the legislators, carry it to practical completion and use it to set in motion an important administrative effort. Just as in Europe, the rise of dictators has followed the post-war difficulties of various governments, so in American history, the expansion of executive authority, through congressional grant, coincides with periods of national stress. Three periods stand out for their delegation of authority to the executive. First, the Napoleonic wars, when Congress armed the executive with authority to protect the commerce of the United States against French and British policies which threatened neutrals on the high seas. Second, the Civil War and Reconstruction era, when President Lincoln and several of his successors were given added powers to deal with the many problems which confronted the federal government. And third, the World War during which Woodrow Wilson exercised, through congressional grant, powers which enormously increased federal activity, not only to bolster national defense, but to enlarge its controls over business and industry. Since 1930 the nation has again been put to the test, and under Mr. Roosevelt the powers of the executive have been vastly increased.

Congress of old has been jealous of its prerogatives, and at times has looked with suspicion, if not hostility, on proposals to enlarge executive authority. The Seventy-third Congress, whose tents were pitched on Capitol Hill under conditions which have no close parallel in American political history, manifested little of this traditional jealousy. Not only was Franklin D. Roosevelt crowned the winner in a race that carried to victory a Senate and a House of Representatives overwhelmingly Democratic, but the impact of the economic depression on American life was so devastating that Mr. Roosevelt, and his new policies, seemed to provide the only hope for a leadership that would carry the country out of the vale of darkness. Congress was his to command, and the Republican opposition, reduced to a strength that made its effectiveness as a minority negligible, was unable to prevent the enormous enlargement in the powers of the President. As a matter of fact, many Republicans, confronted with evidences of the support given Mr. Roosevelt by public opinion, preferred to acquiesce in the New Deal program, an essential part of which was a vast reinforcement of the powers of the executive, than to court popular criticism by resorting to the tactics of obstructionism. Mr. Roosevelt, in brief, received all the authority for which he asked, perhaps more, as the first New Deal Congress followed the leadership of the White House.

In January, a new Congress moves into Washington to face as one of its major problems, the permanency of many of the New Deal agencies, and a continuation, perhaps an enlargement, of the vast authority previously vested in Mr. Roosevelt. The results of the recent elections afford cold comfort to those Republicans who had been hoping for the election of a Republican majority in the House, or at least to close the gap between the two parties in the lower chamber. Continued Democratic control of the Senate, and by a top-heavy majority, was, of course, a certainty. The stage, in a word, seems to be set for another "rubber stamp" Congress—as New Deal critics described the Seventy-third.

It is not necessary to set forth here in any detail the reasons why Congress, taking its members by and large, continues to cling so tightly to the Roosevelt and the New Deal banner. For the recent elections have given convincing evidence that Mr. Roosevelt is still in the meridian of his personal popularity, that the public, as a whole, has still an abiding faith that under his leadership better days lie ahead, and that the New Deal label is still a gilt-edged asset for the aspirant for public office. Add to this the cash benefits of federal policies to each of the 425 congressional districts, and we find every reason why, as a matter of political expediency, Democratic congressmen find it to their interest to continue their support of Mr. Roosevelt and his policies.

Yet the picture has another side. Times seem to be better, and we hear less of the "emergency," a word which was on everyone's tongue during the dark and catastrophic days early in 1933. Granted the personal popularity of the President, granted the political advantages which accrue to those Democratic congressmen who boast of their thoroughgoing devotion to New Deal ideals,

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the fact nevertheless remains that many Democrats view with some concern enlargement of executive authority, and the concentration of powers in the federal government. Even with huge Democratic majorities in both House and Senate, some Democrats hostile to New Deal policies and its political principles may feel more free to challenge the Roosevelt policies, and to oppose a continuation, in their present sweep, of the federal controls over American life. The Republican opposition may be counted on to challenge more vigorously the continued grants of authority to the executive, and if a sufficient number of Democrats join with the Republicans in a demand for a reassertion by Congress of its legislative prerogatives, Mr. Roosevelt may encounter some difficulty in securing the permanency of the New Deal emergency legislation, and a renewal and expansion of the executive powers. At the present time, it is impossible to predict how much opposition Mr. Roosevelt will encounter in his own household.

Among students of government the belief grows stronger that the time has come to examine the regulations laid down by the President in his executive orders, and those of his administrators. Through its special committee on administrative law, the American Bar Association recently issued a pointed warning on this subject. This committee estimated that the NRA alone had handed down 10,000 pages of "law" during a single year. "This figure may be compared with the total of 2,735 double-column pages which comprise the total federal statute law as set forth in the Code of Laws of the United States and the cumulative supplement of 1932-1933," the committee tells us. "When the legislative production of other federal administrative agencies is taken into account, it should not be difficult to demonstrate that the total volume of administrative legislation now in force greatly exceeds the total legislative output of Congress since 1789. . . . The public generally, and most lawyers, do not realize how great is the flood of administrative legislation which is daily poured forth by the federal agencies, particularly since March 4, 1933. Practically every agency to which legislative power has been delegated (or sub-delegated) has exercised it, and has published its enactments, sometimes in the form of official printed pamphlets, bound or looseleaf, sometimes in mimeograph form, sometimes in privately owned publications, and sometimes in press releases. Sometimes they exist only in sort of an unwritten law. Rules and regulations, upon compliance with which important privileges and freedom from heavy penalties may depend, are amended and interpreted as formally or informally as they were originally adopted." Commenting specifically on executive orders issued by the President, the committee says that "the comparatively large number of recent orders which incorporate provisions purporting to impose criminal penalties by way of fine and imprisonment is without numerical precedent in the history of the government."

Among the issues which will face the new Congress, none are of more transcendent importance than the question of the permanency of the New Deal agencies, the range of their future controls, and the limits to be imposed hereafter on executive authority. Before Congress gives its approval to any permanent change in the balance between the executive and legislative branches of the government, and before it enlarges federal jurisdiction and responsibility, it is essential that it first insist on a full accounting from the New Deal administrators, and weigh carefully the results of the various experiments sponsored by the Roosevelt administration—the NRA, the A.A.A., the federal relief, and housing programs, etc. Under the emergency conditions which existed in 1933 and the first half of 1934, no such examination was possible, as New Deal legislation was rushed through Congress with a minimum of debate, and without the searching examination of the merits of each proposal which would ordinarily have been given. A check and audit of what has been done is now needed, and a careful analysis of new legislative proposals that may be submitted. As the minority, it is the duty of the Republicans in House and Senate to insist on this audit, and to scrutinize closely the administration's program. The final responsibility nevertheless rests with the party in power, a responsibility which covers both the permanency of the New Deal, and that of the enlargement of executive authority which necessarily goes with it.

Cor Jesu

What though the hot tears flow! Remember
I, too, have wept.
If you are desolate, have not I
Long vigil kept—
Lonely, My soul sick with sorrowing
While others slept?

I, too, have felt the morning's gladness
And watched the day
Rise noonward rich with promise only
To slip away
Empty into the shadows, as life the while
Grew old and gray.

Weep, My beloved, but count not your sorrows
Yours alone.
The broken hopes, the shattered dreams
I, too, have known.
The tears you, grieving, shed shall mingle
With Mine own.

ELMER MURPHY.

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ALL SOULS' DAY

By JULIA NOTT WAUGH

TAKE, if you must, Christmas in Rome, Easter in Seville, a military Mass in Bourges cathedral; take, if need be, the great black Cross of Santa Fé against the evening sky. But leave to me, O kindly fates, All Souls' in the cemeteries of San Antonio.

On the day of all the saints, and on the day of the dead, the 70,000 Mexicans of that Spanish-American town of our southwest, drive and troop and trail and trudge out to the cemeteries of San Fernando (which take their name from the cathedral, itself called in honor of that Ferdinand who made the Visigothic laws into the vulgar tongue). They come, these beautifully simple people, to visit with their dead. Not to mourn, for they have the acceptive philosophy of a profoundly religious race, but to visit, and sweetly to remember. They come from Laredo and Eagle Pass and other towns along the Rio Grande; they come from the homes of the rich scattered through the older sections of the city; they come from the *colonias,* from the crowded *corrals,* from the blossoming alley-ways of a San Antonio that is peculiarly their own. They come in *limousines* with *rebozos* from old Mexico over their heads; they come in Fords with ear-rings and bracelets from the ten-cent stores adorning their persons. In either case, the car is likely to be so filled with mamas and papas and their babies that the masses of flowers must take their chances on the running-boards, on the fenders, even on the roof itself. They come pushing perambulators (for the moment not required by the latest infant) crammed with white chrysanthemums; they come with dispossessed babies plucking at their skirts, and pathetic little wagons, improvised of boxes set on wheels, laden with gardening tools, and painting paraphernalia and quantities of flowers. But from all directions all classes and all ages, through two full days, wend their pious and happy ways to San Fernando No. 1 and San Fernando No. 2.

At this season flowers are so abundant in San Antonio that they are all but given away. The very poorest may have them in profusion. Outside the city market a flower mart has sprung up—the Negroes with their poultry wagons, picturesque in a tradition so remote, are crowded into a far corner of the place. It is possessed by wagon-loads of blossoms; by mounds of chrysanthemums built on bases of green leaves; by the multicolored flowers of an old Mexican who, true to the ways of his country, and of Spain, sits with his numerous little cans and pots about him; by the cross of another, who kneels in a quiet corner tranquilly setting white and yellow blossoms into a frame.

On the approaches to the cemeteries, other markets have been set up. Wagonloads, and baskets, and *marquees* shading tables laden with flowers line the way. One Mexican family has disposed bouquets pleasantly on the tree-shaded grass before their home, and sit comfortably and placidly awaiting purchasers. Usually masses of white chrysanthemums dominate the picture. But this year, quantities are yellow, "Amarillos y blancos," the boys call; and rich marigolds, and heavy red prince's feathers, and the purple and lavender of wild asters, give tone and richness to the scene. Always paper wreaths are offered in abundance, delicate or dramatic in color, with many a note of black.

In addition to the flowers there is, near the gateway of each cemetery, a simple sort of fair. For at a *fiesta* of whatever nature that lasts two whole days, people have many needs, and for all of them provision must be made. An old man has thriftily gathered tin cans of various sizes, and trundled them hither to sell as primitive flower containers, "Only a penny a piece, señora." The ways of the poor are various, and very sweet. *Tamales, enchiladas* and *café* are served on tables spread with oil-cloths of alluring bright hues. Great glasses and pitchers of an orange-colored beverage are set on a green cover, under a china-berry tree, and vended at two for five cents. The candy-man is here with his little wagon; a gay *hombre* of ninety in evening shirt and a wide-brimmed hat, with a humorous hunch to his shoulders and a humorous slant to his eyes, is everywhere with a basket of fruits; and a contemporary with a dark, cadaverous face sits unmoving beside his little glass box of succulent sweet potatoes. There is life out here, there are many people, but there is also a strange sense of quiet.

In the cemetery itself is busy-ness, unhurried labor, and also an atmosphere of gentle happiness. It must be understood that November 1 is the day of preparation. The people come out, particularly those whose graves are in the poorer and less well-tended areas, to weed and mound them, to wash and paint and letter the little crosses, and to begin to arrange innumerous flowers. Boys go about with rakes and hoes over their shoulders, offering their services. A man carrying a paint-box decorated with three red bears wants to "make your letters." Old, old

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women accompany little grandsons who with an air of utmost seriousness go at the work.

These autumn days are likely to be of a burning, but not of a wilting, heat. A family has spread a blanket beside a grave, and seeking the scant shade of a *retama* tree, sits drinking coffee and having some simple food. The babies sleep. Grandmother in her shawl, but never granddaughter in her permanent wave, is rolling her cigarette. There are many aged women here —this is, perhaps, the outing of the year for them. They come to visit with their dead, but also with their living friends. And it is pleasant to note that *los ancianos* of the race are not "bound to the wheel of young life"; they sit in a place. if not of authority, then certainly of honor. On the base of a tomb are grouped three ancient figures, shawl-draped, monumental, the Parcae themselves, watching the young world at work.

The succeeding generations are busy at many things. For one, they are painting and lettering those pleasantly crude crosses which they and their neighbors have fashioned. Sometimes they are making them a royal blue, sometimes the pale azure of Mary, not infrequently green, occasionally rose. Many are white, a few black. Miraculously, every cross is right. On some of them a Crucified Figure is carven; into many monuments a picture is set, perhaps of Christ, perhaps of His Mother, often of the beloved dead. At the head of at least two graves, gentle Mary stands: one blue robed, black haired, with the pale clear coloring of the south; again, a square gray figure, deriving from the Gothic north.

All Souls' is, of course, the day for which all this activity is but a preparation. At the foot of the great crucifix in San Fernando No. 2 a field Mass is said at nine o'clock. Amidst blossoming roses Father Preciado officiates, with Archbishop Drossaerts in attendance. Then over the whole vast cemetery the people spread. The sight is beyond belief. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of crosses—there are, of course, weighty monuments of marble and of stone, but here, as in so many places, the poor have the better part: their field of slender crosses is the sweeter. Millions of flowers scenting and coloring the very air. The unending flow of black figures. The gentle murmur of voices. The priests, with acolytes and cross bearers, moving ceaselessly among the graves. About a flower-covered mound a family kneels, lighted tapers in their hands. At its head stands a *Padre,* intoning the responses for the dead. All is tranquillity. Rarely, O so rarely, a face sodden with tears.

At twilight, dusk-dimmed crosses, vague forms, candles yellow and blue and rose, wavering on the mounds. Now, most poignantly, the sense of a sanity which at its highest point is one with a mystical religion.

INTIMATE GEOGRAPHY

By FRED SMITH

ALL THE world knows that we Americans are great travelers. The world also knows that some Americans are, in this respect, not only great but grating. There was a time, before I could speak of myself as an American, when I too was inclined to remember the American tourist for this latter characteristic. But now that I have been one of that company of Americans whose peregrinations make glad the directors of steamship and railroad companies, to say nothing of the motor omnibus companies, I recall with pleasure that there are many in this great multitude of travelers who leave behind them a trail of remembered joy after they have returned to their homes in the West.

Such a one, for example, was the American who, this past summer, on asking a conductor on a tram-car outward bound from a Lancashire town how far it was to a certain place, received the brusque reply: "It is moor tha' I con say, but tha con ha two-pennorth of it on this tram." Fortunately for the American a young lady sitting near volunteered the necessary information, and in so doing entered into a conversation with the traveler, who told her he had made a special detour that he might visit Pendle Hill. He had read "The Lancashire Witches" by Harrison Ainsworth while in America, and was so fascinated by the descriptions of this hill that he there and then resolved that when he visited England he would go to Pendle Hill.

I would like to shake the hand of that American. He is a student of geography after my own liking. Geography is a many aspected affair as I note from the definition which I find in my eleventh edition of "The Encyclopaedia Britannica." In this statement I am told that "geography is a synthetic science, dependent for the data with which it deals on the results of specialized sciences such as astronomy, geology, oceanography, meteorology, biology and anthropology, as well as on topograpical description." Now that this encyclopedia has reached the fourteenth edition it is more than likely that other sciences have arisen to add their data to the synthetic science of geography.

It is hardly likely, even if I turn to this later definition of geography, that I shall find recorded just the emphasis on the particular phase of geography of which I am at present thinking. Scientific definitions are usually wholly objective. Of more than Varenius, who published his "Geographia generalis" in 1650, it can be said that scientists "are reluctant to include the human side of geography in their system." The possessive aspect of geography is not in their line. For the purpose they have in view it is better so. For them geography spells itself out in terms of information. Facts and figures are its strength.

Such was my introduction to this synthetic science in the days of early schooling. To quicken my remembrance of those days I have been flipping (once I turned) the pages of "Geography of the World," Longman's No. 3. I see that I have had it in my possession for twenty years

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now. Judging by the portions which I have underlined, there must have been a day when I knew a good deal more about general geography than I do now. I see that I underscored the fact that England is 364 miles broad from Lowestoft Ness to Land's End. I also notice that Mount Townsend is 7,250 feet high. Now, where is Mount Townsend? And so on *ad infinitum*.

I rather think the children of this educated day have an advantage in this respect over me. At least, at a Teachers' Convention which I attended recently as an unofficial observer I noticed that one of the sectional conferences had to do with this subject of geography. One speaker's topic was: "How much geography should be taught in junior high school?" I wonder if she had an answer or merely an argument. Another was to talk on "Making Geography Attractive." I have some ideas along that line myself. They are the reflex result of the days when, in a not unmusical rhythm, I sing-songed with the rest of a class, something about exports and imports, areas and populations, rivers and seas and all that. That was geography in its informational aspect, but not in its possessive aspect.

For my own convenience I have my own system of classification regarding this synthetic science. Broadly speaking, geography is either informational or intimate. In so far as it is the latter it includes the former, but it may be the former without having relationship at all with the latter. As a boy I learned much informational geography from my teachers in the elementary school, but my knowledge of intimate geography came along other avenues. My father was a genius in that respect. Working through the week at his trade, he would "rise with the lark" on Sunday morning, and "ere the world with smoke was dim" we were out in fields and along the river side. Occasionally we would turn aside into a farm to see the farmer milking the cows, and once a farmer gave us to drink of the fresh milk, yet warm. I have never tasted the like of it since. And seven years ago I walked again into that barn to see who had the farm at which a day was made significant to a little lad thirty years before. That was intimate geography. A father can make a good teacher in that subject. I sometimes wonder if many qualify in these days of fast cars. They seem to give their boys the run of the road. But not so can one come into a knowledge of intimate geography. One must walk the fields for that.

Which brings to my remembrance those Sunday school teachers of mine who took us on hikes and rambles. What a happy memory is that of a bunch of boys meeting at six o'clock in the morning on Sundays (the other mornings at that same hour we were in the factory or mine), with the teacher as leader. What wonderful things he told us about birds and stones. I gathered much supporting data from him relating to the synthetic science of geography. And I also found that geography could be made intimate as well as informational.

But if a lad have neither teacher nor dad to do this thing for him, there is that within him which makes him his own teacher. Viscount Grey when writing of the days of his boyhood says: "Very wonderful is the perspective of childhood, which can make a small burn seem greater than rivers in after life. There was one burn which I knew intimately from its source to the sea." If you happen to have read that delectable book, "The Road-mender," by "Michael Fairless," you will recall how often she speaks of "my road." And I see that Gertrude Vaughan has her road too:

"There's no need to guide the old mare
On the little old road.
She knows that just there
Is the big gravel pit
(How we played in it
As mites of boys
In our old corduroys!)
And that here is the pond
With the poplars beyond.
And more May—always May
Away and away
Down the little old road."

This is what I mean by geography in the possessive sense.

For all of us there are areas over which we have the right of eminent domain, so to speak. Wordsworth had his lakes; Browning his Italy; White his Selborne; Thoreau his Merrimack; Arnold Bennett his "Five Towns"; and Hardy his Wessex. But these are the great ones of the earth. We who are lesser have also our loyalties. For us we will let a one-time Provost of Dunfermline speak. What, you don't know Durfermline? Well, listen to the story of the man who did. Of such are the conservers of history. These also know the meaning of geography in the possessive sense. The story is told by Moberly Bell. He was on a sea voyage when an American asked him how far Dunfermline was from Glasgow. Mr. Bell said he did not know, and to excuse his ignorance, said: "It's a very small, unimportant place." Thereupon the man next to him said: "Aw'd have yer to know that Doonferrmline was the former capital of Scotland, and that there's more kings burried there than anywhere else, an' A'm the Provost." This is to have a knowledge of possessive geography with a Scotch emphasis. I rather like it.

Second Coming

I wonder how El Greco would have put
Our city to the uses of his paint—
Towers darkling through a canopy of soot—
Strange setting for the posture of a saint.
Yet there is something Gothic here which might
Not sort so ill with medieval folk,
The gentle shepherd bathed in golden light,
A mitered bishop in his violet cloak.

Perhaps our sense of incongruity
Has hidden the angel's wing that once had shed
A blinding whiteness for the eyes to see,
Dimmed that effulgence round about the head
Of One who still might walk among us here
And be no Stranger from another sphere.

LESLIE NELSON JENNINGS.

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Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—At Lille, ancient capital of Flanders, 300,000 people recently took part in a religious festival commemorating the third centenary of the consecration of the city to "Our Lady of the Trellis." The last float of the great procession, in which over 2,000 Lille workmen and merchants paraded, was a model of the cathedral, begun eighty years ago and still under construction. * * * The Cardinal Newman Award, which is presented each year by the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois to some American for his noteworthy contributions in the field of statesmanship, education, philanthropy or humanitarianism, has been presented for 1934 to Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan, noted physicist, for his "contributions to the enrichment of human life". * * * The city of Tokyo, which had only six Catholic churches in 1923, now has twice that number; four new parishes have been erected within the course of a year. * * * Last week the first annual conference of Catholic diocesan Boy Scout chaplains opened at a luncheon in New York. Among those who took part were prominent officials of the Boy Scouts of America and chaplains from ten dioceses and archdioceses. * * * The *Fides* Service of Rome reports that a winter of famine is feared for millions of Chinese farmers who are victims of the extreme heat and drought of the past summer; Chekiang, Anhwei and Kiangsu are the provinces hardest hit. * * * Although definite reports of the number of priests and religious killed in the recent revolt in Spain is not yet known, forty of them are already reported as dead or missing. * * * During January and February a "team of the National Conference of Jews and Christians," consisting of Reverend T. Lawrason Riggs, chaplain of the Catholic Club of Yale University, Dr. Everett Ross Clinchy, a Presbyterian minister and director of the Conference, and Rabbi Morris R. Lazaron of Baltimore will make a good-will tour of the Southern States.

The Nation.—The United States Treasury, with President Roosevelt's approval, removed government restrictions on foreign exchange transactions. The restrictions have since the first emergency legislation in March, 1933, prevented all but minor foreign exchange transactions, except by application for exchange for the conduct of "ordinary" business which had first to be passed by the Federal Reserve Banks and finally passed by the Treasury. The present complete freedom for foreign exchange transactions is generally viewed as a "swing to the Right" by the administration and an attempt to forestall plans to persecute capital by the forthcoming Congress, as such persecution would now result in the flight of capital abroad. * * * The Home Owners Loan Corporation, government agency for the refinancing of mortgages, announced that no new applications would be received until further notice. It has disbursed $2,000,000,000 for mortgages on 650,000 homes, and it has pending 400,000 applications which are expected to use up all of the $1,200,000,000 remaining at the corporation's disposal. The announcement further stated the opinion that private lending agencies were now in a position to resume their normal lending and refinancing functions on mortgages. * * * Giulio Gatti-Casazza revealed that at the end of the present season he will resign as general manager of the Metropolitan Opera. This is his twenty-seventh with the Metropolitan and his forty-second as a director of opera here and in Italy. * * * Wine, which has been banished from the White House since pre-prohibition days, will be restored by Mrs. Roosevelt at the Cabinet dinner with which Washington's official social season will be opened. Only two glasses will be served and these will be American light wines. Mrs. Roosevelt herself is a total abstainer. Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, national president of the W. C. T. U., immediately issued a protest.

The Wide World.—The Doumergue Cabinet having fallen by reason of the intransigeance of state employees in the face of threatened budget-balancing, M. Pierre-Etienne Flandrin effected a "truce" as one result of which most members of the Doumergue government reenlisted. Notable exceptions were Marshal Pétain and M. Tardieu. Much hostility to the "politicians" was manifested, especially in circles far to the Right, but of actual conflict there was very little. Everybody felt sure that the hour was steadily approaching when extremists would lock in serious battle, with the fate of the republic possibly hanging in the balance. * * * Attention shifted to the Saar Basin, where the League of Nations Commissioner announced that a huge force of Nazi spies was operating and terrorizing the populace. If France were domestically less harassed, this would doubtless have been construed as a frank bid for military intervention. As things are there is little doubt that the *Saarländer* must choose for themselves, with all the odds in favor of reunion with Germany. * * * Increasing readiness of German Catholic bishops to address their flocks on subjects of grave religious importance was shown in several places. Following the virtual suppression of the last Pastoral Letter and a temporary ban on a volume published by Archbishop Conrad Grober, of Freiburg, a number of frank Catholic appeals were issued from various pulpits. The Berlin *Kirchenblat,* organ of the diocese, reaffirmed the solidarity between Catholics and Protestants which was proclaimed nearly a year ago by Cardinal Faulhaber. * * * A considerable increase in the Austrian deficit led again to more or less veiled brushes between the Heimwehren and the forces behind Chancellor Schuschnigg. The argument seems to have its root is disagreement concerning the subsidies to be granted the patriotic defense forces. Judging from the remarks by the Chancellor, no general agreement has been reached concerning Hapsburg restoration.

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Eccles and Recovery.—The appointment by President Roosevelt of Marriner S. Eccles, a Mormon of Utah, to be governor of the Federal Reserve Board, was hailed as one of the most significant moves since the elections. Mr. Eccles, son of a pioneer, is one of the leading banking and business men of his section of the country and was a director of many national concerns. He came into political prominence a year ago when he advocated before the Senate Committee a national spending program and an agricultural policy which substantially has been that adopted by the administration. He is forty-four years old, the youngest man to govern the Federal Reserve. While classed as the most liberal man ever to hold this important position, he has consistently advocated retention of the Federal Reserve system and private banking, rather than adoption of a central bank. "Our problem," he has said, "is the result of failure of our money system. . . . Inflation and deflation are expressed in the increased or decreased purchasing power of money, which we speak of as a cheap dollar or a dear dollar according to what it will buy. At present our dollars are too valuable, measured in terms of goods and service, or conversely, goods and services are too cheap, measured in dollars." He has not much faith in the effectiveness of tinkering with the metallic backing of currency, holding that credit rather than bullion is by far the more important. "The government," he has said, "controls the gold reserve, the power to issue money and credit, thus largely regulating the price structure. Through the power of taxation it can control the accumulating and distribution of wealth production. It can mobilize the resources of the nation for the benefits of its people." His policy for recovery is the use of existing American institutions, public and private, through the large and quick expenditure of money in whatever volume is necessary to employ all employable workers and get the national business turnover and the national income up to the 1929 level or higher.

Emergency Relief.—Preliminary to the November 14 session of the Committee for Economic Security, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration issued publicity of provocative interest upon its own activities. Its own problems will be met from an emergency rather than permanent point of view. Unemployment insurance, it was emphasized, is a partial solution for those who have jobs, and can give them some certainty that their incomes will continue, but it does not affect those with no jobs at all. Unless reemployment can be furnished these unemployed—the five-day week and imposition of reemployment quotas on industries and geographical sections through the Code Authorities were mentioned as possible methods—it was hinted the F.E.R.A. would undertake drastic action to care for them. Ten or twelve million men will be put to work in relief-financed shops to produce goods for those on relief rolls. A publication of the Works Division has recently charged its engineers "with the responsibility for planning and promoting, in the various states, work relief projects for the production and distribution of goods needed for relief purposes." Among the projects mentioned in the publicity are: shoe factories, clothes shops, sawmills, hand-operated brick plants, cotton and wool works and canning plants. These are evidently elements in the "Ohio Plan" mentioned frequently in the recent California political campaign.

To Forestall and Not Oppose.—Private business, Dr. O. M. W. Sprague, and the United States Chamber of Commerce are said to have changed their minds since the elections. Plans are now being laid to live under the present administration for six more years and more particularly under the next Congress which will have powerful thirty-hour-week, bonus and inflation contingents. The new hope is to forestall feared legislation rather than directly to oppose it. A concerted drive is being made to produce independently of the government sufficient business and employment revival to give a good argument for the maintenance of the status quo. Dr. Sprague, former special adviser of the Bank of England and of Secretary Woodin, said that business has a year to produce recovery before Congress will try straight inflation. He claimed that all depends upon the "producers' goods" industries and that they depend upon lowering prices. Meanwhile Standard Statistics announces that nineteen great firms have spent or allotted $120,000,000 for capital goods production so far this year. These companies are in the automobile, chemical, steel, liquor, oil and chemical fabric fields. But the survey concludes: "It is doubtless too early to assume that a rapid trend in this direction on the part of industry generally will develop."

Mussolini's Super-Corporation.—Il Duce became president of twenty-two corporations on October 28, when the "corporative state" was definitely announced at a gathering of 824 directors representing every form of activity for gain practised in Italy. Each corporation assembles the employers and employees unionized, relatively by necessity (i. e., every hirer or worker must pay dues to his federation, whether he belongs or not), in any one enterprise. All enterprises are organized vertically, from start to finish—e. g., the paper factories and the publishers belong to one corporation, the lumber industry and the furniture factories belong to another. A corporation has a council to which there belong, in addition to the Minister of Corporations (now Il Duce), three representatives of the Fascist party, duly elected representatives of workers and employers (the candidates selected must be O.K.'d by the government) and a number of technical experts. Organizations subsidiary to the corporation are the federation and the confederation. A federation is a local groupment of workers and employers. A confederation is a union of four federations. These subsidiary organizations conserve much of the old syndics; the corporative amalgamation now effected has been legislated into being by the government. The idea as a whole is professedly theoretical, and Mussolini told the assembled delegates that they would eventually supplant the Italian Chamber of Deputies. No doubt this remark indicated that a considerable amount of debating is expected. The Italian press remarked that the Roosevelt administration was imitating Il Duce.

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The Spanish Pendulum.—"I am convinced that the pendulum of their changing fortunes will come at last to rest, and that, through a democratically elected government, the Spanish people will give effect to principles combining traditionalism and progress," writes Professor E. Allison Peers in a summary of recent events in Spain written for the current *Nineteenth Century*. He holds that "the true cause of Spain's present troubles is the pendulum"—that shift from one extreme to another which was characteristic of Iberian history throughout the whole nineteenth century and which became particularly evident after the war. The republic was the answer to the dictatorship; and it was the great misfortune of that republic to suffer, under Señor Azaña's leadership, from government by repression in a manner which made the worst of Primo de Rivera's mandates look like an invitation to tea. Surprisingly enough the counter-reaction, when it came, did not blow the nation back into anarchy. It led merely to an uprising by the Socialists who, after electing only 58 members to the Cortes at the November elections, attempted to utilize the Catalonian independence movement as a screen behind which to carry out a revolution. The effort failed when the great bulk of Catalonia's population remained loyal to the national government. Professor Peers, who has lived in Spain long enough to know something about it, also feels that while there have been serious defections from the Church the dominant cultural outlook is still deeply Catholic. There is no doubting, however, that Señor Robles's *Juventud,* or youth movement, has its face set toward the future rather than toward the past. Spanish Catholicism will undergo much social change.

Words and a Parade.—A strange parallelism of phraseology of foreign correspondents reporting the celebration of the seventeenth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, indicated some dependence on "inspired" publicity releases by the Bolshevik government in Moscow. The news is nevertheless authentic and interesting in indicating the public attitude which the headquarters for inciting world revolution by class warfare proposes to take. Instead of the usual floats burlesquing other nations which have been in the Bolshevik's opinion slow in following Russia's example, and the usual banners and effigies carried by the marching workers showing capitalists in the worst conceivable light, there was simply a march past of the Red Army, with a great display of Soviet-made tanks, big guns, armored cars, and other paraphernalia of mechanized war, while overhead bombers and smaller planes in formation droned along. Then followed in serried ranks, in military formation, in uniform garments, and in rigid poses and measured steps, what were estimated as a million collectivized workers and peasants. The banners emphasized in all the languages of the world, the one slogan, "Workers of the World, Unite." From the top of the red mausoleum of Lenin, the parade was reviewed by Josef V. Stalin and other Soviet leaders, while the Comintern, nerve center in Moscow of the organization for the Third Communist International, cabled to its agents throughout the world an appeal (perhaps somewhat paradoxical in view of the parade then in progress and the emphasis on disturbing the affairs of other nations) for workers everywhere to unite against Fascist and imperialist war, and a denunciation of the Socialist Second International for its delay in cooperating with Communists in extending help to rebellious forces in Spain. The curious unanimity above referred to was in the fact that the correspondents reported all this as an example of increasing Bolshevist reserve and absence of warlike intent.

Nobel Prize Author.—Literati were a little surprised when the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Luigi Pirandello, Italian playwright and story-teller. Doubtless the choice was in honor of 1934 and its accumulated uncertainties. Pirandello's best efforts have been directed toward making the stage a platform for the exposition of subtleties, always philosophical, usually criteriological. "Right You Are If You Think You Are," "Six Characters" and "Tonight We Improvise" are interested in the human mind rather than the human heart. Regular theatre-goers have accordingly been pronouncedly cool toward them, although an occasional Pirandello première has graced the repertories of Germany, France, Italy and a few other countries. Pirandello's novels have enjoyed little success, and are—it must be conceded—rather dull and thin. On the other hand, he is an admirable artist in his own particular brand of short story, writing tale after tale with ironical finesse and dictional perfection. Pirandello was born in Sicily during 1867. He was a poet prodigy, but survived that to receive a fairly substantial philosophic education at German universities. He belongs, with no end of independence, to that far-flung army of idealists who tie the many capitals of Europe together with private wires. At present he resides in Rome.

Controlling the Arms Traffic.—Now that some of the evils of the international traffic in arms are before the public eye, Arthur Henderson of Great Britain, President of the Disarmament Conference, believes the moment has come to place this industry under rigid international control. In a recent New York *Times* article he declares that the apparently inspired talk of the danger of war at disarmament conferences just when some progress was in sight, and occurrences like the Shearer incident, have led statesmen to suspect that "secret and sinister influences were at work" undermining their efforts. "It would be difficult to find a more glaring or sinister example of 'business without sentiment' than the private manufacture and trade in the instruments of human destruction. . . . Unless the element of private profit is eliminated, there will remain an incentive to encourage and stimulate the piling up of armaments, themselves provocative of war. . . ." To set an example Parliament is preparing to consider a law prohibiting all private manufacture and trade in arms by British nationals. Before a general disarmament convention is attempted Mr. Henderson believes that a "protocol on the arms traffic to be immediately open for signature and ratification" should be

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drawn up. Instead of moderate reforms, which the munitions makers will oppose anyway, there should be drastic action. A permanent Disarmament Commission should be set up to exercise rigid control over the manufacture and sale of arms and to require full publicity for all international munitions transactions. This is "an indispensable part of a policy which alone will restore and sustain confidence in the collective efforts for dealing with the problem of the use of national armaments." Secretary Hull stated, November 13, that the United States would favor this plan at Geneva.

A Tribute to Cardinal O'Connell.—At a luncheon in Caldwell Hall at the Catholic University in Washington, D. C., November 14, the bishops of the United States presented to His Eminence, William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, a golden chalice and a parchment scroll bearing their sentiments of esteem and their signatures. Cardinal O'Connell is celebrating this year the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. In the evening a solemn convocation of the university, at which His Eminence is chairman of the Board of Trustees, took place in the University Gymnasium and the Cardinal accepted the award of the degree, Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. A message from Pius XI lauded the Cardinal for his zeal in promoting the growth of the Church. Attorney General Homer S. Cummings represented President Roosevelt and read a letter from the Chief Executive conveying his congratulations and good wishes. Following the convocation, Cardinal O'Connell, assisted by Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, and the Most Reverend Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore and Chancellor of the University, received the guests at a large reception held in the Great Hall of Mullen Library. The ceremonies were broadcast over the Columbia and the American Broadcasting Systems.

Knights of the Cross.—In an article written for the N. C. W. C. News Service, Dr. James J. Walsh of New York outlines the work of the Knights of the Cross, an organization in Argentina, chiefly in Buenos Aires, which parallels our own Knights of Columbus. Dr. Walsh commends this organization as a "thoroughgoing exemplification of Catholic Action" and for the "very practical nature of its proposals and the fine way its work has been elaborated." Some of the activities undertaken by the Knights of the Cross during the twelve years of their existence are: lectures, letters and articles explaining the Catholic position on the problems of the day and other disputed questions; the publication and distribution, gratis, of 5,000 copies of the "Catholic Guide to Buenos Aires"; distribution of Catholic periodicals in hospitals and other important institutions; circulation of various pamphlets like the papal encyclicals among non-Catholics, especially among leaders of public opinion; aid to the needy and support of the Apostleship of the Sea; promotion of frequent Communion and retreats. The Knights of the Cross are interested particularly in the English-speaking people of Buenos Aires and the Argentine.

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The Supreme Court and Mooney.—For the second time the United States Supreme Court entered the Mooney case. The warden of San Quentin prison, Mooney's residence for eighteen years, has been required "to show cause why leave to file petition for a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted." In 1918 the Supreme Court refused to review the California court's decision barring a new trial. Only the Sacco-Vanzetti case has brought American justice more bitterly into social, economic and political dispute. Only the Scottsboro trial can compare with it now in the world-wide controversy it has caused and is causing. When the reply arrives from California, the court may reject the Mooney plea or may hear the arguments pro and con. Mooney was convicted of killing ten marchers in the San Francisco Preparedness Day parade of 1916. The conviction was based on the testimony of five witnesses, one of whom repudiated his testimony, claiming he was coached by the prosecution, another of whom was tried and acquitted on a charge of perjury, and three of whom changed their stories repeatedly. Defense witnesses claimed Mooney was a mile away from the scene of death. Mooney was a radical labor agitator and one side passionately believes his trial was cynically "fixed" to eliminate him and what he stood for, while the upholders of the judgment feel they are defending the majesty of law and the traditions of California order against threats of violent anarchy. The defense attorney believes: "Nothing could do more to restore the fast-waning confidence of a large body of the people in the courts as a means for the protection of their fundamental rights than the action of the Supreme Court."

Private Charities.—Commenting on the need for private charities as well as for public ones and for "a new order of society," Miss Joanna C. Colcord, of the Russell Sage Foundation, said, "No possible order of society will prevent the occurrence in it of disadvantaged people. These people need private social work, in addition to public social work, because of its greater flexibility, its freedom from legal restrictions, its ability to use its funds to carry out individualized and unusual plans, and to meet needs not yet recognized as part of the public responsibility. Private social work can give disadvantaged people more time and individual attention, because the number of its clients will be considerably smaller for some time to come than that of the public agencies. The community needs private social agencies as its pathfinding and experimental arm in dealing with social problems. It needs them as channels through which the individual can put into effect his own impulses toward human helpfulness and exercise his own initiative in trying along lines that seem best to him to make his community a finer place in which to live. It needs them as friendly critics and analysts of the public program, pointing out new needs or shortcomings in carrying out the responsibilities already accepted. The public agencies need the private agencies to train and furnish experience to persons who will later become leaders in the public field."

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The Play

By GRENVILLE VERNON

The Plough and the Stars

THE ABBEY THEATRE PLAYERS did well to open their return to New York with a performance of a play by Sean O'Casey, and they did particularly well to make that play "The Plough and the Stars." It is not unknown to New York, this powerful drama of Dublin Easter Week, and a second hearing confirmed the original impression that with "Juno and the Paycock" it is the author's masterpiece, confirmed too the present writer's belief that it is a play of greater importance than Mr. O'Casey's far more pretentious work, "Within the Gates." Mr. O'Casey has recently assailed realism in the theatre, and assailed it with a good deal of justice, if by realism he means photography; but "The Plough and the Stars" is certainly a realistic play, and if Mr. O'Casey intends to turn his back on the kind of realism of which it is a masterpiece for the symbolism, which is really muddle-headedness, of "Within the Gates," the drama will have lost much and gained little. For when all is said and done, "The Plough and the Stars" has both a deeper poetry and a more vital message than a hundred "Within the Gates." The present company from Dublin is every whit as fine as the one once headed by Arthur Sinclair and Sarah Allgood, and Barry Fitzgerald's Fluther Good is a performance such as perhaps no Abbey company has yet revealed to New York audiences. Mr. Fitzgerald might well be denominated an Irish Charlie Chaplin, a Chaplin whose voice is as beautifully preposterous as his manner. Admirable too are Maureen Delaney as Bess Burgess, Eileen Crowe as Nora, F. J. McCormack as Clitheroe, and Michael J. Dolan as the Young Covey. These artists and their companions give the play with all its humor, its irony, its poetry and its essential tragedy. (At the Golden Theatre.)

The Farmer Takes a Wife

TO THOSE theatre-goers who demand neither story, nor depth of emotional or intellectual comment, this dramatization of Walter D. Edmond's novel, "Rome Haul," will prove delightful. Frank B. Elser and Marc Connelly have written amusing and folksy dialogue, have put in action some whimsical characters, and have drenched the scene—that of the Erie Canal of 1853—with atmosphere. Moreover, Mr. Connelly's direction is superb, Donald Oenslager's scenery delightful, and the acting admirable. The story is of a young man who wants to be a farmer but becomes for a time a canal-boat captain, falls in love with the girl who is the cook on the boat, and finally marries her and takes her to live on a farm. The only drama in the play is the internal one of the struggle between the girl who loves the canal and the man who loves the farm. The farm and love win at the end. Now had this been written in the way perhaps the Russians might have written it, the drama might have taken on an elemental power, but written by Mr. Connelly and Mr. Elser it becomes merely whimsical and folksy. The love of the people for the canal we fail to take very seriously. We never for an instant believe that that love is a part of their soul, and any of them would have left it, with little more than a sigh, for places which would have bettered their financial condition.

Yet throughout the acting is well above the average, and June Walker as Molly Larkins gives a performance which truly smacks of the earth, a performance rich, honest, filled with vitality. Excellent too are Henry Fonda as Dan, Herb Williams as Fortune, and Margaret Hamilton as Lucy. "The Farmer Takes a Wife" is veritable in externals, and it moves along smoothly and humorously. Those who enjoy whimsical figures well enacted will surely enjoy it. (At the Forty-sixth Street Theatre.)

Personal Appearance

THE CHORUS of critical hallelujahs which greeted Brock Pemberton's production of Lawrence Riley's farce-comedy was perhaps overdone, but it was understandable. "Personal Appearance" is hilariously funny, and its picture of the ex-waitress become a Hollywood star has a social comment which lifts it above mere unthinking farce. The play itself is of little account when Carole Arden, the movie actress, is not on the stage, but when she is on it we listen to a series of amusing lines and malapropisms, and in the process there is evolved for us a picture of the Hollywood deity which, though it sometimes skirts the borders of burlesque, often enters the realm of true satire.

The actress arrives with her Rolls-Royce and her personal representative at the Struthers House on the main high road between Scranton and Wilkesbarre, and at once proceeds to get her hooks into the heir of the family. Her gyrations to ensnare and carry him off from the girl whom he is engaged to marry, and their reactions upon his family and her personal representative, is what causes, with the lines, the humor of the play—in fact is the play. Mr. Riley's command of pungent dialogue, and his understanding of the character of the vulgar, abysmally ignorant and prehensile platinum blonde, completely obliterates, at least while Carole Arden is on the stage, the fact that with the exception of herself and her personal representative, Gene Tuttle, all the other characters are lay figures and dull ones at that. But so great is the laughter in the lines, and with so much gusto does Miss Gladys George deliver them, and gyrate between them, that "Personal Appearance" will undoubtedly be one of the hits of the season. It is the triumph of a single personality in a well-directed monologue. In it Miss Gladys George, ably helped by Otto Hulette, as Gene Tuttle, proves that she is a character actress of a high order, and one whose sense of the timing of a speech is uncanny. Miss George, known hitherto practically only to stock companies, has come to Broadway to stay—that is, if she isn't at once absorbed by Hollywood. It is a pity that such an amusing play as "Personal Appearance" should be disfigured by two or three needless intrusions of vulgar phrasings. Perhaps they were in character, but art also deals with eliminations. (At the Henry Miller Theatre.)

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Communications

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Washington, D. C.

TO the Editor: It is a pleasure to extend cordial congratulations to The Calvert Associates on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the publication of THE COMMONWEAL.

I note with gratification that the Associates hope to make the anniversary number the beginning of a new period of loyal service to the Church and to the nation, and I offer my best wishes for every success.

MOST REV. AMLETO GIOVANNI CICOGNANI,
Archbishop of Laodicea, Apostolic Delegate.

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: Often enthusiastic expressions cheapen a worthy cause.

Thus, just an expression of appreciation on your tenth birthday: for the service THE COMMONWEAL has given in helping to bring about a better understanding of Catholic people and things by the Protestant and the broadening of mind of the Catholic to all else; for the maintenance of high-class literature in journalism; for the services it has rendered to the Catholic Church in spiritual matters; and for its contributions to American democracy.

ANTHONY BASSLER, M.D.

Washington, D. C.

TO the Editor: I am pleased to know that THE COMMONWEAL celebrates, this year, its tenth anniversary. I wish to send you and your associates my congratulations and good wishes, and I pray the future holds for THE COMMONWEAL the same rich blessings as have enabled it during these ten years, and despite many obstacles, to carry on a worthy and creditable work for the Church in America.

REV. JOHN J. BURKE, C.S.P.

South Langhorne, Pa.

TO the Editor: The Tenth Anniversary Number of THE COMMONWEAL is a joy. Articles are all splendid; its "new dress," particularly attractive. One of the students here said today the special issue was "a Wow!" It is!

My voice of approval is indeed a minor one—just the same, cordially and honestly, I send you my enthusiastic congratulations for the tenth birthday of THE COMMONWEAL. Long life, with valiant vigor, to the editors.

REV. DANIEL S. RANKIN.

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: The new dress in which THE COMMONWEAL enters its second decade can surely be taken to reveal the optimistic courage of its editors, for which they deserve, and I am sure will continue to receive, the admiration of THE COMMONWEAL'S readers.

MARTIN CONBOY.

Altoona, Pa.

TO the Editor: I have just glanced at the Anniversary Number that came this morning and I hasten to add, with its numerous other admirers, most cordial congratulations to THE COMMONWEAL, its editors and staff.

Its trim new dress is so attractive and becoming to the ten-year-old youngster! It is a delight to the eye of the reader! As the saying goes, "Nothing too good for the Irish," so it can be truly applied to THE COMMONWEAL—nothing too good for it! We who read it and know its worth and high place among the best are justly proud of it.

The brief story of how and why THE COMMONWEAL came to be is admirably and luminously told by Michael Williams—a splendid piece of writing. The editorial, "Christian Unity," is in fine taste, clear in statement and compelling in its conclusion. The other papers that I have not yet read are doubtless of the same high merit.

The past should make the future secure for THE COMMONWEAL. May I not express my best wishes thus: *prospera, procede et regna*—meaning "long may it wave!"

REV. MORGAN M. SHEEDY.

Chicago, Ill.

TO the Editor: We have scarcely begun to mobilize educated Catholics in the cause of Catholic Action. Much greater progress has been made with those who have not been favored with a college course. Indeed, they have assumed a large degree of initiative and are doing valiant work.

Yet, if Catholicism is to make its full potential contribution to American life, it must take an intellectual leadership. To stir up that leadership—to lead that leadership and inspire it—is, as I see it, the mission of THE COMMONWEAL.

May God grant it strength and insight, courage and means for the task.

EDWARD J. MEHREN.

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: Congratulations and many happy returns on your birthday. Hope God will bless and prosper you and your staff.

JOHN J. HARTIGAN.

Baltimore, Md.

TO the Editor: Ten years ago I read the first issue of THE COMMONWEAL and have enjoyed every issue since then. There is a very definite place in the Catholic scheme of things for just such a periodical as THE COMMONWEAL; and it would be a tragedy of the first magnitude were that place at any future time to become vacant through lack of appreciation and cooperation on the part of Catholics. Your past is the best guarantee of your future, so far as service is concerned; let us hope that the future will deal more kindly with you than the past, so far as finances are concerned. God bless you and your sacrificing associates on this, your tenth anniversary.

REV. JOHN T. GILLARD, S.S.J.

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Wilmington, Del.

TO the Editor: On behalf of the Commonweal Club of our Senior Class, I wish to congratulate you and your associates upon the celebration of THE COMMONWEAL'S tenth anniversary.

While your periodical is principally addressed to the adult educated mind, it is within the grasp of the high school student. We can interpret it according to our present idea of life. Although a number of the essays are over our heads, the reviews of books and the dramas are of great interest. Also, the poetry cannot be overlooked. For most certainly, there must be a dash of beauty present. The poetry lends not only dignity to THE COMMONWEAL, but variety as well.

We of the Commonweal Club look forward with delight to our weekly programs, and we pass the spirit on to our fathers and mothers, who find greater delight than we in the essays, which, as I said above, are frequently beyond our comprehension. We are wondering if many other high schools use THE COMMONWEAL as a part of their school program.

We wish you continued success for the future of your periodical.

JANET KANE, *Chairman.*

WILFRID WARD AND TENNYSON

Mt. St. James, Mass.

TO the Editor: In an interesting article by Maisie Ward it is gratifying to learn that the poet of the "Idylls" was contemplating, even in his final days, a poem on the theme of Lancelot. Quoting her father's letter to the Bishop of Limerick in 1892, we read of Tennyson, ". . . He was meditating a poem on Lancelot's conversion and death. Lancelot, as you know, became a priest, and buried Guinevere. . . ."

Students of the old legends of the Round Table have frequently regretted the absence of Lancelot's "penitential years" from the "Idylls," as Tennyson selected his material. Like many of the makers of English literature in the mid-Victorian decade, he was anemic in appreciating a motivation based upon the virtue of penance or on the Sacrament of Penance; he had no understanding eye or firm hand for the doctrinal and symbolical culture of the entire Tradition. He made pretty figures out of snow and moonlight for a St. Agnes Eve; he spun forth gracious filigrees in words about Sir Galahad; but he could not understand the ascetical severities of a Saint Simon Stylites. He preferred the comfortable meadows at the foot of an arduous Parnassus rather than the energetic glooms in the Garden of Sorrows. Our own poets in that decade (1880-1890) were singing to the heights in the light of enduring penance: Francis Thompson, "Plow thou the rock until it bear"; Louise Imogen Guiney, "Dredge thou the divine, out of thine own poor dust, feebly to speak and shine"; and Lionel Johnson, "Bear to be last, though the world's fools were first; endure the wealth and wage thy service brings, wages enough, heart's hunger and soul's thirst."

Tennyson gathered elaborately from the Malory quarries; but in rejecting the contrition and reform of Lancelot he failed to erect a complete temple: he left his structure truncated, roofless. If he could not deal with the dimensions of a Westminster Abbey, he might have aimed at the artistic completeness of a Sainte Chapelle.

Yet it is gratifying for students of our literature to learn from the Ward excerpt that the poet, grown more catholic toward Catholic culture and conduct, was contemplating the deeper portion of the Lancelot theme. Propriety will allow me to add here, I hope, a little note out of a remote eruditional source, a note which I sent to the late Condé B. Pallen after he published his excellent poem, "The Death of Sir Lancelot." Pallen, as every student knows, was a discerning interpreter of the Tennysonian "Idylls," and merited a special letter of congratulation from the Laureate. In writing a review of the Pallen poem, I was able to add that a Catholic priest, Father Haythornthwaite, a neighbor of Tennyson, asked the poet, while strolling about with him on one afternoon, why he had never made an "Idyll" out of the entire Lancelot episode, and Tennyson replied, "One would have to be a Catholic to understand that chapter and to do proper justice to the theme."

REV. MICHAEL EARLS, S. J.

THE WIDE WORLD

Watertown, N. Y.

TO the Editor: A most significant sentence in the October 5 issue of your magazine under the caption "The Wide World," obliges me to write you: "Crown Prince Umberto and his wife, the former Princess Marie Jose of Belgium, could produce nothing better than a daughter." What delightful reading for your lady perusers, particularly the intelligent ones, if such there be! Especially as they have been told so many times that their present "exalted" position in the world is due to the Catholic Church, of which I presume you are a spokesman.

I presume you intend to convey by your remark that you believe in the superiority of the male of the species. Now, it seems to me that any gentleman who assumes the responsibility of making such declaration should be able to offer himself as evidence of such superiority.

Undoubtedly you mean well, but you do remind me so much of some gentlemen I once heard of who lived in one of our Southern States well over a hundred years ago. They were accustomed to gather in the post office on Sundays to hear the postmaster read, he being the only person who could make out print. All the reading matter they had was a little sheet printed in a nearby city, so he would begin each issue at the top and read straight through, advertisements, announcements, and everything, and when his listeners got tired, he would mark it off and begin there the next time. So it was 1817 before they got to the War of 1812, and when they came to that they all arose and offered to volunteer. They were patriotic all right, but somewhat behind the times.

K. M. GODLEY.

Editor's Note: The attitude expressed in the words censured above was not ours but that of the Italian people —especially (if we may judge by correspondence) the feminine half of the Italian people.

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Books

From Cézanne to Surrealism

Plastic Redirections in Twentieth Century Painting, by James Johnson Sweeney. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

IN PUBLISHING these critical lectures of James Johnson Sweeney, the Renaissance Society undertakes a work that supplements the series of comprehensive art exhibitions it has brought to the University of Chicago. The lectures are devoted to clarifying the tradition and relationship to one another, of the modern, esoteric movements in painting. These movements have striven to produce pure painting on a plane that finds its only analogy in pure music, if we except the literature of James Joyce and Gertrude Stein. The continued reasonableness of such an effort in painting, an art representational in its origin, may be questioned. Its present inevitability, as well as the beauty of the art in its highest manifestations compels our respect. The general and uncomprehending view, however, is one of appreciation of the unusual, and a disturbed sense of misplaced pictorial values.

Mr. Sweeney brings to the task of elucidating the origin and development of these modern movements in the plastic arts, a taste and knowledge that isolates him most satisfactorily from the journalism which is currently accepted as art criticism. Beginning with Impressionism and its radical break with naturalism in art, he traces the development from the source figure of Cézanne, on to the current products of Surrealism. His estimate of the influence and the relative value of those precursors of twentieth-century painting, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, and that happily endowed painter. Henri Rousseau, is accurate and infused with an artist's perception of values. These lectures approximate Mr. Sweeney's own statement that the "only genuinely constructive criticism that exists in the plastic arts is a creative act which provokes or follows upon another creative act."

The fact that this creative type of criticism, which is developed with a full sense of the subject matter, concerns itself exclusively with esthetic considerations brings it into unusual accord with these esoteric art movements. From the quoted statements of Cézanne, "I have not tried to reproduce nature: I have represented it," down to the effort to achieve a "new archaicism," Mr. Sweeney shows the preponderant purpose of the past fifty years in these various significant art movements to have been that of effecting a separation from naturalism. The lectures analyze the moves and the directions taken to effect the necessary detachment from naturalism; and to achieve a plastic growth, as well as esthetic reality.

It is my belief, however, that these art movements, while denying that naturalism which came out of the Italian Renaissance, are still unfortunately warped by the Renaissance tradition, a tradition from which modern painters have, almost hysterically at times, sought to free themselves. That tradition, as it affects them, is not so

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Next Week

TO A MEXICAN DICTATOR, by Myles Muredach, is a terrible indictment of a red-handed tryant, who has enriched himself until he is one of the wealthiest men in the world but who is now a tired man nearing death. The violence, the pillage, the desecrations, are seen in a perspective which gives them a new value even for the man who has used them to satisfy his vanity, his lust for power, his hatreds and his greed. This article is one of those rare works of literature which illuminates a whole, confused panorama of human events with a piercing clear, white light. . . . COSMIC GODS, by Fulton J. Sheen, reviews a few of the conflicting concepts of empiricists who, taking a long leap from empirical facts, say that God is "The Principle of Concretion" or "The Harmony of Epochal Occasions" or "A Pure Mathematician" or "The Whole Universe Striving toward Idea," etc., etc. The well-known writer of this paper, one of our most brilliant theologians, is here brief but highly informative. . . . SOME NOBEL PHYSICISTS, by Karl F. Herzfeld, of the physical laboratory staff of the Johns Hopkins University, is a fascinating paper for the layman which gives some distinguished physicists their due and explains a little of the marvels of the universe in which we live that they have discovered—in particular, the contributions made since the turn of the century to the development of the Quantum Theory which permeates the most minute structure of matter and determines the very existence of the atoms and, with them, of chemical elements. . . . POETS AND THE RADIO, by A. M. Sullivan, a radio broadcaster known to thousands of "listeners-in," relates the growth of the latest medium for spoken poetry, and tells of the practical problems, Philistinisms and some of the worthy, and quite interesting, possibilities in its use.

much a matter of art forms. They have created new forms and have established fresh painting values. It is rather that more subtle and determining matter of purpose, which links this newer art to a past, from which it seeks to separate itself.

With the Italian Renaissance rose the custom of producing paintings for the pleasure and possession of lay or ecclesiastical aristocrats. This was in contrast to the pre-Renaissance condition in the plastic arts, in which the arts were more related to purposes of general use in connection with the offices of religion. The Renaissance produced the easel picture in larger quantities and for an exclusive patronage. Medieval art, in contrast, was devised for the pedagogical or inspirational purposes of the multitude. The private possession of art and related objects was then more incidental and was not an influencing factor. Since the Renaissance painting has become an increasingly more exclusive and aristocratic art. From having been produced for the pleasure and to suit the taste of a ruling class, it developed, in the esoteric art movements of Cubism, Dada and Surrelaism, into painting for the pleasure and understanding of an informed group or cult.

Such an art is necessarily not one with appeal to the general public, a fact that argues nothing against its quality in an esthetic sense. Its detachment in its forms from normal experience and interest, at this period of life, is unavoidable. This separateness reflects that cultural cleavage which marks the lack of unity, not only in modern society, but also within the modern individual. A more spiritually unified society would have produced a more readable art; a less inhibited adult art perception would bring interested persons closer to the beauty and imaginative play of pure painting. Because modern art is a salon art it is an aloof art, one for specialists. A later generation, because of the reality within it, even though not graphically revealed, will find it more readable. Had these modern painters, in addition to their complete response to contemporary existence, been able to come to grips with life in the sense of relating their art to purpose, I believe something more socially vital than gallery pictures might have resulted. As Mrs. Eva Schutze states in the Foreword to this book, it is usual to regard art as "ornamental or external." As long as art remains a stored thing, a matter to be distantly viewed in museums, rather than a matter of use, it will continue in its remoteness to life and so also continue to be ornamental and external.

As it is, we are indebted to Mr. Sweeney for a critical estimate which, while limiting itself to esthetic considerations, within those limits maintains a high plane. He has not regarded himself as either priest or prophet of these movements. That in itself is an indication of the culture and detachment with which the work is assayed. With the publication of these lectures comes the promise of a continued appearance of thoroughgoing art criticism allied to a distinctive literary style. There has been a lack of that, and the advent of this critic is one to be observed with keen interest.

BARRY BYRNE.

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Devil-may-care

Boy and Girl Tramps of America, by Thomas Minehan. New York: Farrar and Rinehart. $2.50.

IT IS at once necessary to recognize this "treatise" by a Midwestern professor of sociology to be a sensational book. The writer has, however, gone to the ultimate source for his material and in his accounts of jungle and breadline life and philosophy he has contributed something of interest to students of contemporary conditions. Here the thoughtful American is presented with a picture of several hundred, perhaps thousand, young Americans, the type of persons who some day are to be faced with the responsibility of rearing children, electing representatives, or representing others, living with no care for tomorrow and a devil-may-care attitude for today.

These gangs of youngsters, mainly in their teens and even including girls, have little sense of moral responsibility left, if we are to believe Mr. Minehan. Even taking him with a grain of salt, we must admit that constant opportunities for stealing and immoral relations and frequent temptations are sure to wear down moral character completely in the shy individual and in the mass.

Not all of these hoboes want work. The writer mingled with 180 young boy tramps in Washington recently and knows that some are far too content idling away time on highways and freight trains to seriously buckle down to a job and earn enough money to go home and live with their families. Indeed the source of all trouble was in their families. Family groups have been disbanded by divorce, unwholesome living and drink. Youngsters have found themselves deprived of motherly love and parental influence. In public schools they found nothing but unpleasantness and toil and so one night (as countless anecdotes in the book go) the dissatisfied boy or girl fled, hopped the freight, and has kept going ever since.

When Mr. Minehan wrote the book nothing had yet been done to aid homeless vagrants. But the Federal Emergency Relief Administration has, since last May, been operating a Transient Bureau for vagrants and hoboes, young and old. With headquarters in Washington this bureau attempts to keep the home-lost boy away from the road until such a time as he has found a job and earned enough money to buy his ticket home. But further than that the government unfortunately cannot go. While the job is being sought for the transient, he is provided with three meals a day and a bed, in return for which only four hours a day must be spent in such work as picking weeds or keeping public lawns clean. In addition, there is a weekly allowance of $.90 for each resident transient.

Two further revelations from Mr. Minehan's pen should suggest further action for the government. "Bolshevism is spreading rapidly," he declares, and religion has but little place in the vagrants' lives. While the statement concerning Bolshevism is undoubtedly an exaggeration the second assertion gives food for thought and action. On Sundays these youngsters should be required to attend a religious service of whatever denomination they feel themselves a member by baptism. This would take care of an important phase of their development into

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normal decent young people which the government will not be able to manage alone. It should furthermore check any nihilistic or materialistic tendencies which may be developing in their midst.

JOHN J. HONIGMANN.

Somewhat Dull

Dusk at the Grove, by Samuel Rogers. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. $2.50.

THE *Atlantic Monthly* $10,000 Prize Novel for 1934 deals with the family of Mark Waring, a minister of the Episcopal Church. Each Summer the Waring family left its home in North Chester, Pennsylvania, and went to a house, called "The Grove," in Rhode Island, where are played out all the scenes of this novel. These scenes show what the passing of the years brought to Mark Waring, to his wife, and to his children, Brad, Linda and Dicky. The years bring them experience of the war, of love, of the complications inevitable in a group of people, and of transience. Our knowledge of these things is derived from the meditations and mental wanderings of all the characters (but chiefly Linda and Dicky): Brad is a good fellow, not altogether the insensitive business man; Linda is romantic and given to phantasy; Dicky is eternally boyish and bewildered by life's rudeness; the mother and father are decent people—it is difficult to make a more adequate brief description; Thornton, Linda's husband, is a creature of surface perfection, lacking all fire; Joel, Linda's lover, is limned in the convention of the romantic quester after certainty given to cynical speech; Ellen, Dicky's wife, is neurotic. They are confused persons, treading the mazes of their thoughts without particular gusto or profound imaginative conception of what may lie at the end; the patterns of their lives have a certian complexity but neither depth nor balance.

Without his method Mr. Rogers would have no story, but with his method he is prevented from having a good one. He has elected to use the stream of consciousness-interior monologue style, in which a number of difficulties are inherent: since his characters are not in themselves very extraordinary, it follows *ipso facto* that their unselected musings are of no especial interest; plunging into the flux of his people's minds, the author brings up a great deal of irrelevant débris besides the strict matter of his story—and this débris, being the clutterings of an undirected mind (I don't mean Mr. Rogers's but the character's with whom he is dealing at the moment), even lacks a worth of its own, not relative to the essential story. Overt action is subject to the physical laws of cause and effect, and thus inevitably imposes a plot or pattern of some kind, but the stream of consciousness proceeds by only remotely logical processes and, unless used by a writer of deep psychological insight or great formal talent, is bound to be wasteful and vague; complete immersion in a character results in less clear outlines, simply because the closer one gets to one's object the vaguer it becomes as an entity. More particularly stated, "Dusk at the Grove" is verbose and dull.

GEOFFREY STONE.

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Success in Sanctity

Heralds of the King, by John G. Hogan. Boston: The Stratford Company. $1.50.

FATHER HOGAN in this book gives "a strong, intelligent appeal to men and women today to accept the ideals and principles that governed the lives and produced the beneficent works of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Dominic, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, and Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton." He gives the high lights in the lives of these saints, and one whom Americans love to speak of as a saint, from their birth into this world to their entrance into eternal bliss, emphasizing "the human side of these famous and successful men and women of the Catholic Church," and showing "how their holiness brought untold happiness to the people among whom they lived and worked."

The book is well written, in clear, flowing language; and frequently the author, who is no doubt a lover of poetry, fittingly makes use of extracts from poems of famous authors, which adds much to his pleasing style of writing. Neatly printed and attractively bound, this volume, portraying these heralds of the King, who were "all founders of religious orders, not in a pietistic, unreal fashion, but as individuals who because of their extraordinary love of God, had a great interest in their neighbor," should prove useful, "inspiring and edifying" to non-Catholics as well as Catholics. Father Hogan's book fully deserves a wide distribution.

LOUIS JOSEPH MALOOF.

Change

The Spinner of the Years, by Phyllis Bottomley. New York: The Macmillan Company. $2.50.

THIS is the story of a highly developed scene of civilization such as a few of us Americans have hoped to attain—perhaps vainly. The author's great aim, as is almost immediately apparent, is characterization; here she attains at once her strongest point. Her half-dozen leading figures are developed to a polish that almost tempts a reviewer to use the word (invariably applied, however, to antiques), "patina." The author frankly delights in her art. She has given us already two successful novels with the same general setting, and renewed interest in her work has prompted the reissue of this one.

The provincial town of Hudley in Yorkshire is the scene of "The Spinner of the Years," and the story is concerned with the relations between the Armitage and Thornton families. The master-stroke of the book is the study of the change in Imogen Armstrong, from an exquisite, warm-hearted girl to a proud, obstinate, disillusioned woman, developed as only a close observer of character could. The book, indeed, rises to the plane of an excellent psychological study, and for a long time to come will be read by those sincerely interested in the way in which character is molded by life. That, after all, is one of the novelist's chief concerns.

JOSEPH LEWIS FRENCH.

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Briefer Mention

We Accept with Pleasure, by Bernard DeVoto. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. $2.50.

THIS is a long picture of a small group of ex-army officers and a few people they know. Mr. DeVoto has written a detailed account of their unfulfilment. The causes of this frustration concern the author immensely and are interesting to the reader to such an extent that some critics have called it a good book. It is hard to know what reasons the writer believes brought on the group tragedy. Of course, none of them knows what to do with himself. There is a deceased Faust that haunts many of the pages in a rather fascinating way, fooling some of the people with his dramatic, however hollow, self-assurance. There are stretches of experimental prose presenting things rather well at first hand, that make the book even longer and engulf one character particularly who has not been treated with the proper dignity. One man is given a dreadful inferiority complex by earning only $3,000 a year. There are mother fixations and inhibited loves and an admired Napoleonic complex. The soundest woman in the book is superior by her ability to say, "Nuts." The fact certainly seems to be that Mr. DeVoto has no idea of the springs of his observed tragedy and therefore makes emotions, indeed tragedy, come from inadequate sources. The book gives the impression of not fulfilling itself.

Liberty and Natural Rights, by W. R. Inge. The Herbert Spenser Lecture delivered at Oxford, May 9, 1934. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1934. $.75.

WITH felicity of expression and scholarly detachment Dr. Inge here presents the case for "that conception of personal liberty which has been the special gift of our nation to the world" as opposed to that temper which is responsible for the "total and almost unresisted destruction of liberty in one great European nation after another." This thought-provoking address should be read by every student of political theory and by all who aspire to an understanding of those fundamental principles the comprehension of which is of first importance to the student of international affairs.

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